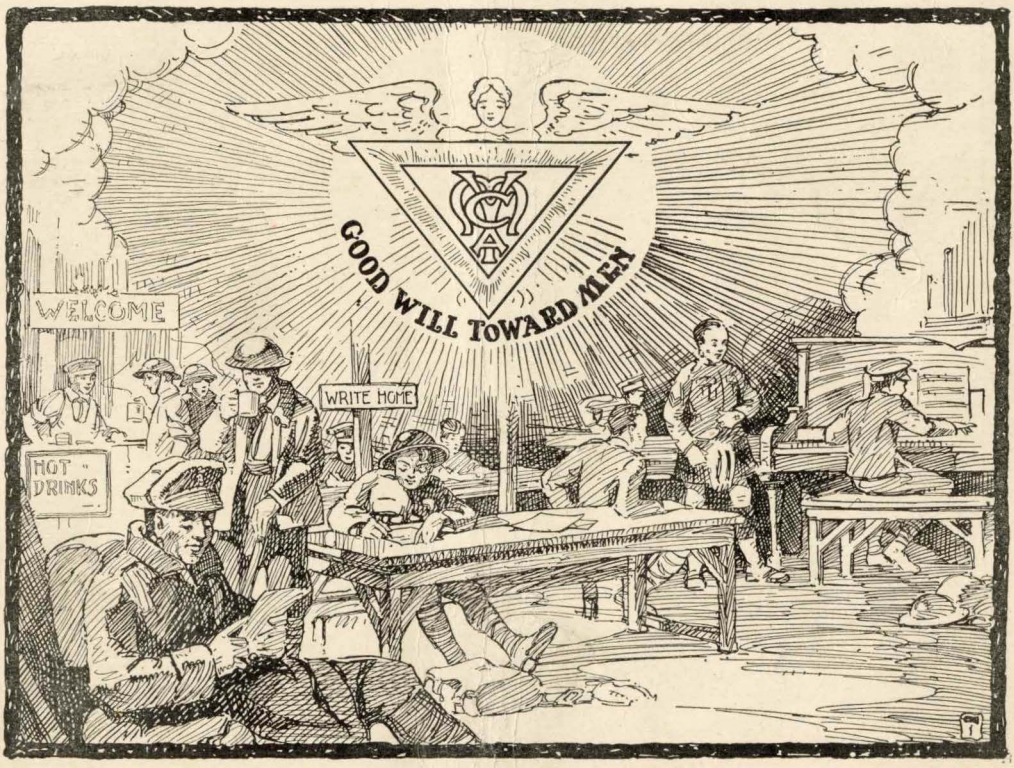
# Canadian Manhood

Christmas Y.M.C.A. 1917

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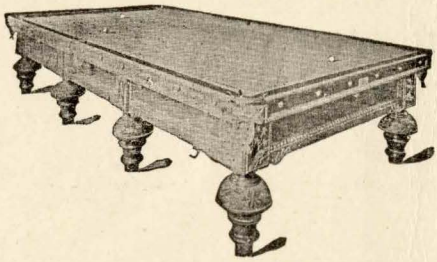

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## ANNOUNCEMENT.

Kindly address all communications relating to CANADIAN MANHOOD to the Editorial Secretary, National Council Y.M.C.A., 120 Bay Street, Toronto, Ont.

# CANADIAN MANHOOD

(Continuing "Ideal Men")

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### CHRISTMAS.

We are soon to celebrate our Fourth Christmas during the war, and though the changes brought about by the world conflict are many, yet the "Good will towards men" spirit is still with us, whether in the midst of home surroundings or on the battlefields of France. In its atmosphere it is easier to forget our grievances, and even the thought of an enemy in the world is for the time eclipsed.

To truly celebrate it this year we must do so in the full light of all the tragic facts in our world. We cannot draw the blinds to shut out the sights of war and try to act a Christmas at home as if there were no war. We must keep our Christmas with a stronger faith in its meaning in spite of the contradictions of the war. We must sing "Peace and Good will" against the roar of the conflicts which proclaims "war and ill will." We must realize why the song the angels sang on the first Christmas morning is suffering such contradiction to-day, and must keep our faith strong and clear in the certainty of its ultimate fulfilment.

We should this year realize more than ever how fully the spirit of good will is vindicating itself even in the very heart of the conflict. There are many thousands of our soldiers who are fighting without malice and are passing through the struggle without losing their good will toward their foes. And then we should not fail to see in its true meaning the universal ministry of the red triangle. There pre-eminently good will holds sway. Here the Christ spirit of service is the driving motive, and here men may find an atmosphere where good will can flourish.

So may our celebration at home be one that will keep alive the faith of men in the power of the Christ child to dispel the dark clouds of war and to establish the reign of universal good will among men.

## THE GREAT CAMPAIGN IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Canadian Association Movement joins in unbounded congratulations to the War Work Council of the United States on the wonderful success of their great war work campaign. The announcement of a 35 million objective was a surprise in its magnitude, but the response of over 50 millions is doubly amazing. We realize that the untouched resources of the generous American public were but waiting the first patriotic appeal, but we know also that the securing of this fund represents large faith to begin with and prodigious work and supreme efficiency of organization. We pause, too, to contemplate what it may mean. It is the greatest fund ever presented to a Christian organization, and marks an epoch in the history of Christian enterprises. It bespeaks a confidence not so much in the organization as in the great service for which it stands. It constitutes a mandate from the great American public to prosecute this line of ministry to the bodies and spirits of men as energetically as we prosecute the war itself. It lays upon the organization a trust more great and glorious than it has ever known before.

## OUR TASK FOR 1918.

The past and present of our great war service makes us now look to the future with keener interest than ever before, and we approach the year 1918 with earnest questions in our minds. What will be the size of our task this year? Are we to maintain the million dollar level attained this

and is the only Ball on the market sold

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drink and be merry, for to-morrow we die." It is not only the present generation which must suffer from this fatalism but many future ones as well. It would be obviously impossible to preach men out of this attitude, but the Association has, according to its principle of positive rather than negative help, arranged to guide the men to the best ways of spending their leave. It is done through sight-seeing tours, personally conducted by responsible parties who see that every hour of the leave is occupied in healthy amusement or educational pastime. No charge is made for such service, and not only do the men save money but all chance of physical suffering is eliminated, with the result that the men return to their units in better health and in much better spirits than when they started out. Every agency and every volunteer that is helping in this service is doing so assured that they are not only helping a soldier boy to-day but are putting into effect the teachings of Prof. Parker, who said, "If we are to save the future generations, we must first save the present generation."

## HOSPITALS.

We have been taught that the first duty of every Christian is to help our less fortunate brother. Surely this could not be better accomplished than by making life easier for the returned men who are in our various Hospitals and Convalescent Homes! These men have given their best for the cause of King and Country and a great many will never be in full possession of their normal health again. The Association has one or more representatives in each Hospital to help to cheer the men and make the sunshine a little brighter for them, and expression of thanks received is more than enough to assure us that our efforts are not in vain. We, enjoying God's gift of good health, must not forget our less fortunate fellows; nor must we allow the work of helping them to fall upon the shoulders of the few.

# CANADIAN MANHOOD

**Christmas, 1917**

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# Work of the Five-Pointed Star

By Capt. Carrie.

The history of almost all institutions can be divided into two phases: (1) The Pioneer, (2) The Expansive. So the history of the Canadian Y.M.C.A. at the front can well be divided into these two. The Pioneer days laid foundations upon which the present can build with great security. And as in all such edifices, our admiration for the completed whole seldom gives due praise to the foundation, so there is danger that in applauding the work of our secretaries now overseas, we forget the strenuous toil of the pioneers of our work. To them rather than to us who followed belongs much of the glory of the service the Association is now able to render to the Canadians in France.

The turning point in our work occurred about the time of our return from the Somme. There the resources of our institution were tested to the limit in the attempt to give services of the most material kind to the Canadian Corps as it took its part in the Great Push. Called upon as we were suddenly to take over almost the entire canteen arrangements of the Corps, our simple business organization would not have stood the strain. But the call of the Pioneers for a business manager had finally been answered, and the arrival of that important personage to direct the buying, selling and accounting of the immense business transactions there carried on, made possible the giving (more or less efficiently) a great service to our men at a time of intense strain; and created amongst the Canadian rank and file, not to mention the higher command, a respect for the organization which could in so short a space of time, and under such adverse conditions, adapt itself to the need of the hour. The Association came away from the Somme with a fine record of service, and a greater respect for it on the part of those it attempted to serve.

The winter of 1916-17 saw the Canadian Corps in a quiet part of the line. The Y.M.C.A. was able to sit down, take stock of itself and define its policy of service more clearly.

Gradually the business department evolved, so that now in each division there is a business department presided over by an officer responsible to the Business Officer. Whereas in the early days each officer spent most of his time on his canteen, now all but one officer in each division is freed to carry on the more vital activities of the Association.

Having cleared the decks, so to speak, the Association prepared for action. The religious problem was next taken up. It was felt that one of the things most needed by the men in the field was a presentation of the Gospel upon popular lines, free from superficial emotionalism, intended more to help men live than to prepare them to die. In response to their request, Revs. W. A. Cameron and J. McNeill of Toronto were sent out. All last winter, with only one night a week off, Capt. Cameron presented his message of hope and faith and love to huts full to overflowing with soldiers. Many a man went out from the meetings heartened for the struggle, more enthusiastic for noble living, more determined than ever to live to the best that was in them. And it must please the people at home to know that nightly, not one but four such meetings will be held in the Canadian Corps this winter. This, along with the extensive distribution of religious literature written in the field, is to the writer's mind the most vital work the Association is doing in France. We will never be able to measure the power that goes out from each of these meetings.

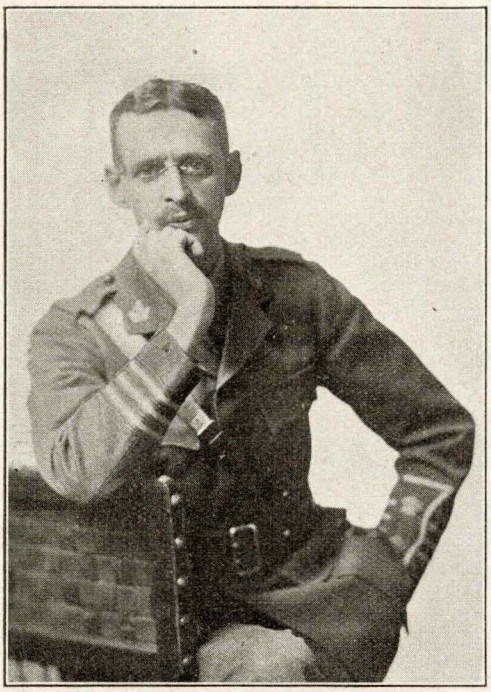
Contemporaneous with the religious problem was that of entertainment. The higher command is always anxious that the time of the soldier while out of the line should be taken up actively in some form of recreation and entertainment that will provide a good antidote to the noise of the shell and the bomb. The Association was just as keen to make the soldier's life as enjoyable as possible. We started in 1916 with one cinema taken over from the British Y.M.C.A. This fall we have nine in the Corps. In 1916, beyond Capt. Plunkett's quartette, we had little more than impromptu concerts. Now we have four or five first-class concert parties at our disposal for this work. These parties are most popular, and the huts are always crowded to the doors with both men and officers to hear them. No charge of any kind whatever is made for any cinema or concert. Our huts are always open to whosoever can get in. In the early days our concerts were conducted in an ordinary hut, from a half stage in front, to the tune of the canteen behind. Now our special theatre huts have sloping stage, sloping theatre, foot-lights, headlights, spot-lights, drop curtain, side curtains—all, of course, of a kind—the dresses are the latest from Paris and the songs fresh from the London stage.

Space does not allow for a full description of other equally important branches of our work that have developed this last year. The Athletic Programme of this past summer with its meets, its baseball and football schedules, its 25,000 dollar equipment (mostly in baseball), is in itself worthy of much lengthier mention. The special services rendered the wounded during shows, commenced in a systematic way at the Vimy Ridge and since then an integral part of Y.M.C.A. activity on the occasion of any show on the British Front, is a story in itself.

Along these five lines the Association work has developed gradually and solidly during the past year. Without losing any vigor in this department, but rather gaining grace through experience, it is taking a hold of one more form of activity. I refer to the Education Programme now being developed in the army overseas. The plans are still in their infancy, but are in the protecting and guiding care of Dr. Tory, from whom much is expected.

The work of the Association overseas is in a thoroughly healthy state and as such is worthy of the support of those interested at home, and the best labor of those whose privilege it is to serve the Canadian Corps in France.

# Overseas News



Recent recognition has been given to Major Gerald W. Birks, our Overseas Supervisor, in his promotion to the rank of Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel. The extent and importance of Colonel Birks' service has been increasingly recognized by the Military Authorities, and the work over which he presides is now so large and so efficiently organized that it has assumed a place of such military importance as to make higher rank for its leaders more than justified. As a compliment to both Colonel Birks and the work which he directs, the Association Movement at home welcomes this new distinction.

## IN CAMP.

By SILAS K. HOCKING.

For several months past I have spent all my spare time in visiting various military camps under the auspices of the Y.M.C.A. I have travelled from the south-east corner of England to the north-west corner of Wales, and have talked to thousands of Tommies—Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders, English and Welsh. I have not yet spoken to Scotch or Irish. It has been a new experience, and a profoundly interesting one. For more years now than I care to count I have been in the habit of speaking on public platforms; but in all my experience I have never spoken to more interesting or more interested audiences. Tommy is delightfully frank and free from convention; he puts on no go-to-meeting airs. If he wants to read the paper or smoke he will do so, and if he is bored he will get up and walk out. When he is interested, however, he will listen with all his ears and eyes—listen with face aglow. He is refreshingly quick to see a point, and if he is amused he will not merely snigger but laugh outright.

* * *

The English and Welsh I have found are keenly interested in politics, and remarkably frank in their expression of opinions. They are watching the trend of events—political, social, and economic—with the utmost interest and curiosity. The Colonials are great autograph hunters. I have autographed more books and postcards during the last few months than in all my life before: the latter to be sent to the "folks at home." As far as I can see at present (and I have now had a fairly wide experience) the huts provide the one and only humanizing influence that is brought to bear on the lives of our soldiers. The military machine is hard and cold and relentless. It has no mercy, no bowels of compassion, no human sympathy. It takes no account of the individual, never differentiates between the weak and the strong, the timid and the fearless. All have to toe the same line, and are ground in the same mill. Rules and regulations are made for the worst, and the best have to suffer in consequence.

It is nonsense to pretend that the men like it. They don't; they hate it. They have grown up in the atmosphere of freedom. Until caught in the war-machine they lived their life in their own way. When their day's work was done they were free to go where they liked and do what they pleased. All that is now changed.

All this may be necessary to military efficiency. Yet I cannot help thinking that there might be a little more discrimination, especially in the case of the wounded. Why should not a mother be allowed to nurse her own son when he is getting better? Why should a lad whose home is in Surrey be sent to Scotland?

* * *

The one green spot in the desert of their lives is the Y.M. hut. A Canadian officer said to me the other day, "We want as far as possible to provide a home away from home." Yet to enter one of the huts, say at seven o'clock in the evening, gives one the impression for the first few minutes rather of a pandemonium. The first impression over, you discover that the place not only hums with humanity, but bubbles over with sympathy. At one end is the canteen in full swing. At the opposite end is a stage or platform, with a crowd of men around the piano singing "There's a long, long trail" or "Dixey Land" or "The Old Kit-bag," while a Tommy, with more or less skill, vamps out an accompaniment. The intervening space is filled

camp and other camps, spent the afternoon and had tea with the leader of the hut.

During the following week, the leader decided that it would be a good plan to make the Sunday afternoon group a Bible Class, followed by an old-time fellowship tea. The plan was tried with good success the following Sunday and then became a permanent part of the religious programme.

**The Class and Attendance.**

From Nov. 5th to March 25th inclusive, the group met every Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock in the Y.M.C.A. canteen. The personnel of the group changed very considerably each Sunday owing to drafts being taken away, or other shifts being made in the troops during the week. Personal invitations were extended by the leader to men during the week, either at the canteen counter or in his personal chats with the men during the day or after the evening programmes. In this way the number attending the class remained quite constant. It was easy to get the men to come, and the only reason why the class was not larger in numbers, was to prevent it becoming too cumbersome and to allow our limited accommodation to be used to best advantage. Thirty-one classes were held during the period with an average attendance of twenty-eight. It was fine to gather from twenty-five to thirty-five men about a good warm fire and try to thresh out some of the soldier's problems for him. The class was quite informal and discussion was encouraged with good results. In fact, on several occasions the discussion became so interesting that we ran thirty to forty-five minutes' overtime. During these thirty classes two hundred and nine different men attended, and in every case a strong friendly point of contact was established between the men and the leader.

**Class Programme.**

The group assembled at 3 o'clock and we opened with a good old sing-song of the favorite hymns. Then a passage of Scripture was read by one of the group bearing on the subject for discussion. This was followed by prayer by two or three of the group, then another hymn followed by the discussion. The first course of study was Fosdick's "Manhood of the Master" (12 studies). This was followed by a course on ten characters connected with the trial and crucifixion of Christ, after which a new programme was introduced whereby the passage of Scripture read formed the basis for a fifteen minute discussion and was followed by the reading and discussion of a couple of chapters of Donald Hankey's "A Student in Arms." This study of Hankey's splendid and forcible expression of the Tommy's ideas of religion and philosophy of life proved very interesting and helpful, and the men so intensely enthusiastic about it that we are now on our second reading and study of the book. After discussion, another hymn was sung and we closed with prayer.

**The Social Tea.**

But the class was not ended when the study was ended. The soldier realizes as never before, that he is not only a spiritual being but also a physical and social being, and it was in response to the need for a social hour together, that we held at 4.45 a Fellowship Tea. The men prepared the tables, and assisted the "Y" ladies (as they term our good ladies who help us here) in serving tea, cake, fruit, etc. The ladies dined with us, and it was a real touch of home for the fellows. After the meal, each fellow was called upon in turn to make a speech, consisting of answering questions which he has answered many times since joining the army. The questions were typed on a card and passed about the table.

At the conclusion of the speeches the leader would usually outline briefly some definite work, such as bringing a couple of chaps to the religious services held at the "Y," or advertising some special feature of the week's programme in their huts and their platoons. In this way the group were bound together with a common interest and work, and formed a nucleus for extension work in the battalions.

Fatigue parties of two or three men were to the amusement of all detailed to wash the dishes and rearrange the tables and chairs. Meanwhile the fellows from the same town or with the same occupation or with some common interest revealed in their speeches, gathered together in small groups, and the leader went about amoung them chatting and establishing a firmer friendship with the boys who so much need a friend.

**Letters from Members of Groups.**

I cannot close this story without mentioning briefly the letters which I have received from members of the group. Of the two hundred and nine different men who passed through the class and on to other camps in England, to France, or returned to Canada, I have had letters from one hundred and thirteen, and in every case the Bible Study Class is mentioned. I add here a few extracts from the letters which I have received from the boys.

One chap writes:—

"I remember the evening in the canteen when you asked me to attend the Bible Class. Somehow I didn't want to go, but I couldn't say No. I went the next Sunday, not because I wanted to, but because I had promised to. After that I wouldn't have missed the class for anything—it was the brightest spot in the camp and the nearest approach to home."

Another boy writes from France:—

"I am so glad that I was present at your Bible study group the Sunday we discussed 'The Master's Power of Endurance.' That very thing is being tested out in a practical way now right here, and I am so glad that I learned the way the Master faced hardship and danger and therefore how I should face them."

Another writes:—

"I miss the Sunday afternoon at the Y more than I can say. It seemed the one thing necessary to give a fellow like me a good grip of things and a better outlook for the week."

# Triangle Items

"The Red Triangle is a three-point star of hope, refuge and comfort."

The Y.M.C.A. International Hospitality League, with temporary headquarters at 45 Bedford Square, has been formed by the co-operation of the British, American, Australian, Canadian and New Zealand Y.M.C.A.'s to provide for the amusement and recreation of members of H.M. forces in London.

From Jewish synagogues in London and the provinces about $150,000 have been subscribed in the last year for Y.M.C.A. huts.

Y.M.C.A. station work in France has grown enormously. At one base alone last month they gave away, to men passing through early in the morning to the front, or moving about the different parts of France, no less than 152,000 cups of tea.

The Y.M.C.A. have just secured an hotel in Paris which will become the British headquarters in that city. They have also formed a centre there for British, Australian, and Canadian troops on leave, and an Information Bureau, similar to those in operation in London, has been opened.

Writing from the firing-line, a lieutenant who recently signed the War Roll, and with the card enclosed a cheque for £1, says: "I had no idea your huts were pushed up quite so close to the line as one I saw to-day."

If I may be allowed to give my own experience as a motor ambulance driver, during two and a-half years of wanderings up and down the British front, I have ever hailed the well-known and familiar sight of a Y.M.C.A. hut with joy, for it has meant to me a few minutes amongst the newspapers, a supply of cigarettes, a tin or two of fruit, and a homely chat with the gentleman behind the counter."—PRIVATE F. L. BEDDOE in the *Merthyr Express*.

"The work of the Y.M.C.A. at home and at the front," says the *Liverpool Daily Post*, "is almost as evident as the war itself."

A lady at Bognor has handed over her cottage and garden, to be held by the Y.M.C.A. during her life, and afterwards to become the property of the Association.

"There were two men who kept a Y.M.C.A. canteen going in one of the most unhealthy towns in France. Day and night the Boches were putting 'stuff' into that town by the ton, but the Y.M.C.A. men sent word to battalion headquarters that they would carry on all right if they might have a working party to build them in again. Three times this happened, and three times the Y.M.C.A. men—jolly good fellows—were built in."—*Manchester Guardian*.

There is a very definite tendency towards undenominationalism in England, which goes far to ensure the success and support of such bodies as the Y.M.C.A., of whose work the half will probably never be told. Wherever soldiers are, there the Y.M.C.A. is, whether it be in country, village or outlying camp or vast manufacturing city, and the sane, sound, practical lines on which the organization is conducted must excite admiration in everyone interested in the welfare of young soldiers. Help given to the Y.M.C.A. is always capital well invested.—MRS. DONALD SHAW in *Mail and Empire*.

### Good Work of Y.M.C.A.

F. A. MCKENZIE in *Toronto Star*.

"Not far from this was a Canadian Y.M.C.A. advanced post. I examined these posts, going from one to another. They do exceedingly useful work, supplying hot cocoa and biscuits to both wounded and stretcher-bearers. It was good to see the tender way the bearers lifted the heads of the men, holding cups to their lips. There were many frigid men. Wounded, whose heartbeats were slackening and circulation was lowering as death approached; wounded recovering from the first shock of pain; unwounded, like the stretcher-bearers and myself, chilled and hungry, found comfort from these mugs of cocoa. The Y.M.C.A. workers planted their stations at several dangerous points in the line, because here their presence was most needed.

"One extraordinary aspect of the battle was seen while the fighting was heaviest. Large numbers of men were at work behind building roads. One of the great difficulties confronting the advancing army is absence of proper roadways over regained territory. The Canadians immediately set themselves to supply the need of great double-lined, wooded roads made of solid brick foundation with wood. Otherwise the country for miles behind the lines would be impassable."

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"Over in France and Flanders the men are cared for socially in a very efficient manner. The Y.M.C.A. reaches the men and caters to them where the churches and chaplains fail. The noblest men in the field are the Y.M.C.A. secretaries—they even go right over the top with the men! When there is danger they are never seen to hide away in a dugout!"—LIEUT. WM. SPENCER.

"A chaplain that doesn't make the men better fighting men isn't on his job," said the speaker, "and the O.C. doesn't want him around. It is wonderful to see how the men steady up when they realize God is with them. I want to say that the Canadian and British armies owe more to the Y.M.C.A. than they can ever repay."—PROF. W. S. OSBORNE.

"I can truthfully say the war could not be won without the Y.M.C.A.," Lord Northcliffe said.

The crowded state of the "Y" huts, especially in the evening, prove their popularity and usefulness. It is impossible to exaggerate the tremendous importance of the work, both social and spiritual, which is being carried on in the Y.M.C.A. huts of Felixstowe and elsewhere.—REV. W. H. BOOTH.

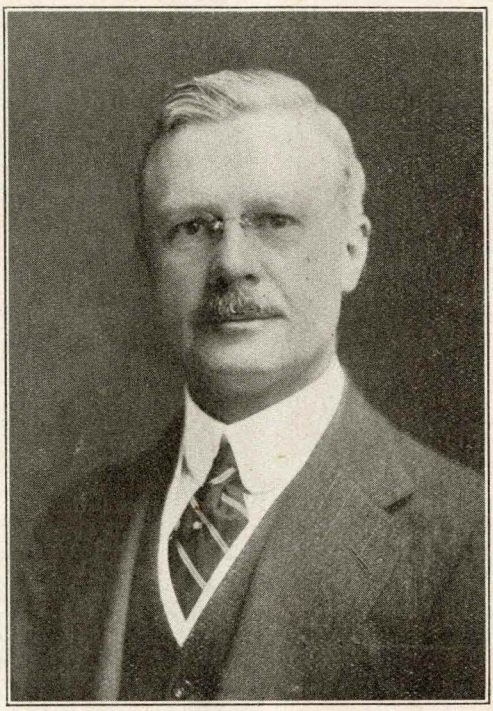
Officers as well as men take advantage of it, and even a General has been known not to disdain a seat in the kitchen and a mug of Y.M. cocoa in the middle of the night.—REV. S. M. MURRAY.

# G. Herbert Wood, Chairman, National Council Y.M.C.A.'S of Canada

Mr. G. Herbert Wood, of Toronto, has since January, 1915, been Chairman of the National Council, succeeding Mr. W. M. Birks, of Montreal, who was Chairman of the Council from its formation in 1912.

The establishment of the National Headquarters in Toronto was the occasion of transferring the chairmanship to that city, and Mr. Wood was the unanimous choice of those interested, both in Toronto and throughout the country.

His previous Association connection was as a member of the Board of the Toronto Association, and he was closely associated with the Building Movement and the rapid development of the work in Toronto. Mr. Wood found no difficulty in expanding his interest to the national scope, for he had long been a man of national vision and world-wide religious interest. He brought to this chief lay position in the Young Men's Christian Association of Canada a rare combination of Christian devotion, business efficiency, executive capacity, wise judgment and brotherly spirit.



G. HERBERT WOOD

He has a large and contagious spirit of optimism and is a model of intelligent and enthusiastic generosity.

Mr. Wood's business career has been connected with finance from the beginning. He was originally associated with the Dominion Securities Corporation of Toronto, but has now for twelve years been head of the Bond House of Wood, Gundy & Co., with headquarters in Toronto and branches in Western Canada, New York, and London, England.

In Church circles Mr. Wood takes a part equally prominent to that which he holds in the Y.M.C.A. He is Superintendent of the Sunday School at Central Methodist Church, Toronto, is President of the Methodist Union which represents all the churches of that denomination in Toronto, is a member of the General Board of Missions and the General Board of Education of the Methodist Church in Canada, and a member of the Board of Regents of Victoria University, Toronto.

Mr. Wood's name has been associated with every patriotic enterprise that has appealed to Toronto. He has been prominent in all the Red Cross and Patriotic Fund Campaigns, and his position as one of Canada's leading financial authorities has been more recently recognized in his being made Chairman of the Victory Loan Campaign for the Province of Ontario and a member of the Dominion Executive.

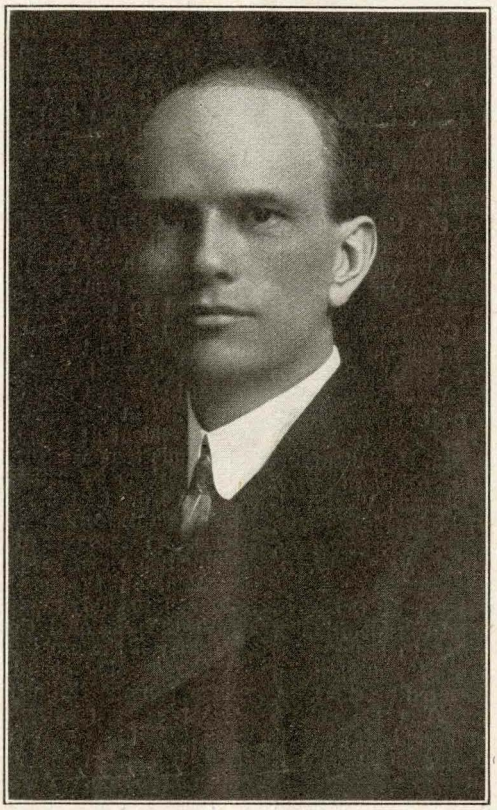
# Chas. W. Bishop, General Secretary, National Council Y.M.C.A.'S of Canada

Chas. W. Bishop is a product of a Methodist parsonage, his father, Rev. Geo. J. Bishop, being an honored minister, and in later years and until death, Superintendent of the Methodist National Training School and Deaconess Home, Toronto. Chas. W., one of several children, was born at Mt. Albert, Ont., finished his High School course in Toronto, studied philosophy in Victoria College, winning the Gold Medal, and graduated from the University of Toronto with first class honors in 1904.

That "first class" habit has stuck to Mr. Bishop in increasing degree all his life. Among his various early life tasks was one as teacher for three years in the Muncey Indian Institute, later he became assistant to Dr. G. W. Kerby in Central Methodist Church, Calgary, then Pastor of the Wesley Methodist Church in the same city.

About this time the hand of Dr. John R. Mott was placed on Mr. Bishop and he accepted the Student Secretaryship for Canada of the Y.M.C.A.

Two years later Dr. Riddell, Principal of Alberta College, Edmonton, pressed the professorship of Homiletics and Practical Philosophy upon him, but before his duties were begun the National Council of the Y.M.C.A.'s of Canada was formed in 1912, and the challenge of this national opportunity was so insistent that Mr. Bishop accepted the call to become the National Council's General Secretary in that year. In 1915 Dr. Mott, who then became General Secretary for the International Committee in New York, invited Mr. Bishop to become one of his three associates in the home field, and until the demands of the Canadian Military and other work became so much greater, Mr. Bishop spent a part of each month in counsel with Dr. Mott and his Associate Secretaries at the International Headquarters.



CHAS. W. BISHOP

One finds it difficult, as one considers his splendid manhood, to particularize regarding Chas. W. Bishop's strong qualities. His sincerity, his democratic and generous spirit, his combination of gentleness and strength, are bonds that keep him close to the hearts of his associates. His Executive especially, perhaps, appreciate his ability to analyze a situation and advocate a cause. They appreciate also his unusually good judgment, and the sympathy and tact which show to such advantage in his dealings with men.

By general consensus of belief, Chas. W. Bishop has already done a great work as head of the Y.M.C.A. in Canada.

Under his administration the National Council's Military and other service has developed remarkably. Mr. Bishop's plans are so well based that he is seldom overruled by his Executive. That body of business men —as well as the Secretarial Staff—have great confidence and satisfaction in their General Secretary's leadership, while the recent National Convention of the Associations at Ottawa gave expression to similar feelings. From the strength and spirit of his platform work, and from their realization of the integrity of his character, Mr. Bishop's friends know that his effectiveness is deeply founded on the sincerity of his religious life. He is a leader of power largely because of his own constant friendship with that other Leader whose resources are boundless and available without reserve.

# Second National Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of Canada

## Ottawa, November 2-5, 1917

**Convention Theme:** "The New Significance of the Young Men's Christian Association."

**Opening Session, Y.M.C.A. Auditorium, 2.30 p.m., Friday, November 2nd.**

In the absence of G. H. Wood, Chairman of the National Council, the Chair was occupied by W. H. Wiggs, of Quebec City.

Opening prayer for the Association and its efforts at home and abroad was offered by W. Lyle Reid.

Robert P. Wilder, head of the Religious Work Department, International Association, was introduced for the opening address. He dwelt in his address on both the religious and social sides of the Y.M.C.A., taking as his example the Perfect Man—Jesus Christ.

President H. M. Tory, of the University of Alberta, took up the great change occasioned by the war; the work the Y.M.C.A. was doing in this World struggle, and the necessity for preparation for after-the-war conditions.

The appointment of the *Committee on Permanent Organization* was as follows: Ontario, G. A. Warburton; Quebec, G. B. Ramsay; Prince Edward Island, J. A. Clarke; Nova Scotia, J. T. Burchell; New Brunswick, A. S. McAlister; Manitoba, G. N. Jackson; Saskatchewan, E. J. Chegwin; Alberta, H. Ballantyne.

*Officers of the Convention appointed were:* President, J. A. Machado, Ottawa; Vice-Presidents, Hugh Ross, Sydney; L. F. Monypenny, Toronto; G. N. Jackson, Winnipeg; Secretary, A. W. Robb, Halifax; Asst.-Secretary, W. R. Cook, Toronto.

The first important business of the Convention was the receiving and consideration of the *National Council's Report.* In the absence of G. H. Wood, Chairman of the National Council, this report was presented by Chas. W. Bishop, General Secretary. The Committee appointed to deal with it reported later; their most important finding in connection with it was the following resolution:

"Your Committee has given special attention to the second and third sections of the Committee's Report, namely, those which relate to 'The Association and the War' and 'The Progress of the Canadian Associations.'

"We have been profoundly impressed by the report of the National Council as indicating a volume and variety of activity far beyond the scope of any pre-arranged plan. The challenge of the war and its demands upon the religious and moral forces of the nation came directly to our National Council with an emphasis that was compelling, and the Council has shown courage and statesmanship in grappling with the opportunity. The sympathy of all classes of Canadians has been given to the war work, and has extended to the local Associations, as evidenced by the success of some in liquidating their debts and by others, especially the larger ones, in greatly increasing their membership. The figures contained in the report would seem to indicate, however, that some Associations have found the war conditions unfavourable to their growth, or else, that lacking leadership, they have not been able to rise to their opportunity insofar as their home work is concerned.

"It is a fact that the unusual demand of the war work has had a direct effect upon our Secretarial leadership. Many of our men have been called to other spheres of usefulness in connection with the Military work in Canada and overseas. The Associations and Boards of Directors have regarded these calls as primary under all of the circumstances and as a consequence many of the Associations have suffered.

"In view of all the facts we urge the National Council to direct its special attention to the position of the local Associations, and to so strengthen its leadership of them as to ensure their continued stability and development. We regard this as a task of the greatest importance not only in the light of boys and young men now resident at home, but also because of the demands that are certain to be made upon the Associations by after-the-war conditions.

"In order that the greatest co-operation may be available for the solution of these vital problems, we recommend the appointment of a Commission of five business men by the Convention, on the nomination of the National Council, to study the situation and to co-operate with the National Council in working out a solution of the problem."

The meeting closed at 5.00 p.m. with the singing of the National Anthem.

**Evening Session, Y.M.C.A. Auditorium, 8.00 p.m., President J. A. Machado in the Chair.**

"All hail the power of Jesus' Name" was the opening hymn. The Convention was led in prayer by Wm. Craig.

Mayor Fisher was introduced and extended a hearty welcome on behalf of the City of Ottawa to the delegates. Dr. John McMillan, who fifty years ago was the first President of the Ottawa Association, extended a warm welcome to the Convention on behalf of the local Churches; J. A. Machado, President of the Ottawa Y.M.C.A., welcomed the delegates on behalf of the local Associations. The addresses were responded to by L. F. Monypenny, Vice-President of the Convention.

"The Needs of Our Industrial Workers" were taken up by Dean Frank D. Adams, of McGill University; and John Sumner, Toronto, Secretary of Industrial Department, delivered an

address on "The Industrial Work of the Young Men's Christian Association."

Frank Yeigh gave an illustrated Association story showing the wonderful work done, and advancement made, by the Y.M.C.A.

The following Committees were appointed by the President:

*Committee on National Council's Report:* G. A. Warburton, Toronto; F. M. Black, Calgary; C. J. Burchell, Halifax; R. L. Smith, Hamilton; D. V. Sinclair, Belleville; H. V. Haight, Sherbrooke; John Grant, Mimico; John A. Torry, Toronto; John Bowman, Port Arthur; W. H. Wiggs, Quebec; E. J. Chegwin, Moose Jaw; W. H. Henderson, Montreal; Geo. A. Crain, Ottawa.

*Business Committee:* P. E. Deeth, Hamilton; W. A. Oliver, Ottawa; W. H. Vaughan, Toronto; C. M. Copeland, Toronto.

*Committee on Resolutions:* E. H. Jones, St. Catharines; I. E. Munger, Ottawa; Will Corcoran, Regina.

**Third Session, Y.M.C.A. Auditorium, 9.15 a.m.**

Opening hymn, "My God, I thank Thee, Who hast made the earth so bright."

Opening prayer by A. S. Hopper, Toronto.

Robt. P. Wilder addressed the delegates, taking as his text, Luke 11:1, and stating that "to be fit for service one must know God, and the only way to know God was to pray."

J. J. Virgo, Associate General Secretary of the British National Council, brought greetings from the English Y.M.C.A. to the Canadian Associations.

E. H. Clarke, of the Student Department of the National Council, spoke on "The Student Field."

"The New Significance of the Canadian Boy" was taken up by R. G. Dingman, who covered the co-operative movement in Boys' Work; Taylor Statten spoke on the same subject, with particular reference to Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests—illustrating the various points on the C.S.E.T. Chart. Rev. J. C. Robertson, D.D., General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, took up the C.S.E.T. from the Church's standpoint.

The discussion of the Boys' Work and the Co-operative Movement growing out of it led up to the following resolution, which was presented by the Committee on the National Council's Report, and which was unanimously adopted:

"The record of the National Council's leadership in Boys' Work in Canada, and of their co-operation with the various churches in developing an increased interest in, and putting emphasis upon, work for boys, is one for which the Associations of the country are grateful to God and thankful to those who have developed it. The progress made in extending the use of the Standard Efficiency Tests for boys, the holding of inspirational conferences from coast to coast, and the development of the Farm Service Corps for work on the farms in Ontario, are evidences of the Association's adaptability to the needs of our present national situation."

"There has never been a time in the history of Canada that was so full of opportunity for the extension of our work among boys as at present. The loss of men through the ravages of war makes imperative an enlargement of our Boys' Work programme by every local Association in order that young men of the right type may be trained to fill the vacant places in the Home, the Church and the Nation."

"The National Council should continue to direct the energies of its Boys' Department towards this end, and should vigorously promote Boys' Work in every Association, that they may contribute their full share to this great national duty."

"As a fundamental principle in this co-operative movement is the absolute autonomy of each co-operative body, the Advisory Committee is, therefore, not another new organization but a clearing house, through which each organization can act with others in certain co-operative lines of Boys' Work. It is important that this distinction should be clearly recognized by our Association leaders in Boys' Work, and that they should faithfully adhere to the National Council's policy of constant and sympathetic co-operation with each local Association within its own field, both with respect to its own work and its relation to co-operative work within the community where each Association exists."

RESOLVED:

"That the Convention commend and endorse the National Council for its policy of co-operation with the Churches and the Sunday School Associations on behalf of teen-age boys through the National, Provincial and Local Advisory Committees for co-operation in Boys' Work. We also approve the policy of further developing the Canadian Standard Programme of religious education for teen-age boys, based on the four-fold life."

**Fourth Session, Y.M.C.A. Auditorium, 2.00 p.m.**

The opening was marked by song service conducted by Dr. G. L. Palmer.

Major John Brown led the Convention in prayer.

L. F. Monypenny addressed the Convention on "The Association and the Returned Soldier," dealing principally with the different kinds of work being done.

Dr. John R. Mott, General Secretary of the International Committee, was welcomed, and in a few words expressed his pleasure at being able to attend the Convention.

Capt. J. A. Kneale, continuing the main theme of the afternoon, dealt with the work being done at the Discharge Depot at Halifax; Capt. T. W. Jones spoke regarding the work done for the returning men at Quebec, and G. N. Elliott described the work Toronto West End Branch of the Y.M.C.A. is doing for the returned soldiers. Major Brown closed the addresses with a discussion on "The Relation of the Local Association to the Returned Soldier."

These addresses were followed by considerable discussion, which was summed up by Chas. W. Bishop, General Secretary.

Afternoon Session adjourned at 4.15.

**Fifth Session, Chateau Laurier, 6.00 p.m. J. A. Machado presiding.**

This session was in the form of a Convention Supper, which was attended by well over three hundred delegates, members and friends of the Association. After the supper, the President welcomed the delegates to Ottawa.

The toast to the King was heartily responded to by the singing of the National Anthem.

Regrets were read from Sir Robert Borden, other Ministers of the Cabinet and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who were unable to be present.

G. H. Wood, Chairman of the National Council, spoke of the coming Victory Loan and what it meant to the Empire.

Pres. H. M. Tory, of the University of Alberta, followed Mr. Wood, and addressed the Convention on the Educational needs and work of our soldiers, and outlined an important project of educational work for the demobilization period.

**Convention Service, Dominion Methodist Church, 11.00 a.m.**

Rev. J. W. Graham, D.D., preached, and took as his text, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord. Make His paths straight." He described the work of the Y.M.C.A. as one of the pioneering agencies that are preparing the way for a future better generation. The church was crowded.

Most of the other Protestant churches had Y.M.C.A. speakers for their services.

**Sunday Afternoon Session—Russell Theatre, 3.30 p.m., Mr. Machado presiding.**

J. J. Virgo addressed the delegates and others in attendance, "The Message of the Red Triangle" being the subject taken. He covered the work of the Association from the beginning of the war up to the present time, laying particular emphasis on the Y.M.C.A. activities in Canada, the English Training Camps, France, Mesopotamia, Egypt, German East Africa, etc., touching also on the system now in vogue for serving the soldiers on leave and visiting London, Paris and other large cities.

CONVENTION DELEGATES

Alfred Price, Assistant General Manager of the C.P.R., spoke on railroad work, and W. D. Robb, Vice-President of the G.T.R., on the benefits that had been received by the Grand Trunk through the untiring efforts of the Young Men's Christian Association.

Dr. John R. Mott then spoke on the World's opportunity of the Young Men's Christian Association as seen in recent visits to the warring countries. He also covered the prisoner-of-war work in Germany. He emphasized the wonderful work the Association is doing and how their efforts are being more and more appreciated by all the Allied nations.

Session closed at 10.45 with the singing of the Doxology and the National Anthem.

**Sunday Morning Fellowship Meeting, 9.15, conducted by J. Howard Crocker.**

This meeting was particularly well attended and greatly appreciated.

Address was delivered by Robert P. Wilder.

**Sunday Evening Session—Russell Theatre, 8.15 p.m., John W. Ross presiding.**

R. G. Dingman gave a Scripture reading followed by prayer by I. E. Munger, Local Secretary of the Y.M.C.A.

John W. Ross addressed a few remarks on the Military Work of the Association and introduced Capt. W. A. Forgie, the latter giving some details of his work in England and France.

Major John Brown then addressed the meeting, laying particular stress on the moral battles the individuals are fighting in the war and the great need there is for encouragement and assistance.

Pres. H. M. Tory spoke regarding the Educational systems planned for the men and outlined plans for an Agricultural University overseas during the period of demobilization.

He also gave a brief outline of his visit to the war zone.

This session, as well as the afternoon session, was attended by a large general audience.

The meeting closed with the singing of the Doxology and the National Anthem.

**Sixth Session—Y.M.C.A. Auditorium, 9.15 a.m., November 5th.**

The opening hymn was "He leadeth me," followed by devotional exercises led by A. S. McAlister, who read the 4th Chapter of the Book of James. Three of the delegates then led in prayer.

Chas. W. Bishop, General Secretary, gave a presentation of the Religious Work of the Association, and was followed by Dr. W. E. Taylor, who delivered an interesting address on "Religious Work and Evangelism." A number of interesting points were taken up and discussed.

"Among the Railroad Men" was the subject of an address by J. M. Dudley, R.R. Secretary of the National Council, showing the work being carried on by the Association at the different railroad centres of Canada.

**Seventh Session—Y.M.C.A. Auditorium, 2.00 p.m., November 5th.**

Devotional exercises were led by W. J Green, of Edmonton.

C. L. Rowe, Rural Work Secretary with the International Committee, addressed the Convention on County Work, showing how greatly the work had increased during the last year and also showing what a wonderful influence it had on the districts.

Wm. Corcoran, of Regina, then introduced the *Report of the Committee on Resolutions.*

Addresses on "Canada's Share in the Foreign Work" were given by B. H. McClain, of International Committee, recently returned from India; D. H. Gibson, of the Boys' Work Committee, and J. Howard Crocker, who has recently been recalled from China.

Motion for adjournment was made at 5.00 p.m.

**Closing Session—Dominion Methodist Church, 8.00 p.m., J. A. Machado presiding.**

Opening hymn, "How firm a foundation," Rev. Dr. Aitken leading in prayer.

His Excellency the Governor-General was in attendance, and President Machado expressed to him the appreciation of the delegates at having him present at the closing session.

Inspiring addresses were delivered by Hon. N. W. Rowell and Rev. Geo. Adam on "The New Day of Service and the Place the Church and Young Men's Christian Associations will have in bringing in that new day."

After the singing of "Listen, the Master beseecheth, calling each one by his name," the President declared the Convention closed with the singing of the National Anthem. Between 800 and 1000 attended the closing session.

*Report of the Credentials Committee:* W. C. Benson presented the report of the Credentials Committee, which showed the total number of delegates registered as 177, made up as follows: City 117; Railroad 22; Student 4; Corresponding Members 34.

Representation by Districts being: Alberta 4; British Columbia 1; Manitoba 4; Nova Scotia 11; Ontario 114; Quebec 33; Prince Edward Island 2; Saskatchewan 3; United States 4, and England 1.

**Convention Notes.**

Y.M.C.A. Exhibits made up of photographs of the work and its leaders; panels of statistics; illustrated cards of different phases of Boys' Work, Industrial Work, Railroad Work and General Association Work; Thrift Cards; a series of cartoons covering the Military side of the Y.M.C.A., and panels of publicity and magazines, in the large lobby of the Auditorium, attracted much attention. They covered the entire field of Association endeavour.

At noon on Saturday, the delegates were photographed in front of the Auditorium. Fully 150 were in the group. Cut showing this group picture will be found on page 14.

Due to the ladies of Ottawa signifying their desire to hear J. J. Virgo's messages, the meetings in the Russell Theatre were both made Open Mass Meetings.

Dr. G. L. Palmer had charge of the musical programme each day. The hymns were an inspiration.

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**"THE RED TRIANGLE."**

The National War Work Council of the Y.M.C.A. was so impressed with "The Road to France," $250 prize poem by Daniel M. Henderson, of South Orange, N.J., that an appeal was made to the National Arts Club to supply posters containing the poem, to be placed in every building of the Y.M.C.A. in the U.S.A. and in the war zones. "The Red Triangle" was written by Mr. Henderson to further the recent Y.M.C.A. campaign, and is as follows:

Lift up the Red Triangle
Beside the thundering guns—
A friend, a shield, a solace
To our ten million sons!
Go build a hut or dugout
By billet or by trench—
A shelter from the horror,
The cold, the filth, the stench!
Where boys we love, returning
From out the gory loam,
Can sight the Red Triangle
And find a bit of home!

Lift up the Red Triangle
'Gainst things that mar and maim;
It conquers Booze, the wrecker!
It kills the house of shame!
Go make a friendly corner,
So lads can take the pen
And get in touch with mother
And God's clean things again!
Where hell's destroying forces
Are leagued with Potsdam's crew,
Lift up the Red Triangle—
And help our boys "come through!"

DANIEL M. HENDERSON.

# One Month's Work in Camps in Ontario and Quebec

By P. J. Lee, Area Supervisor, Ontario and Quebec.

The Military work conducted in the above area during the past month has demonstrated again the real place that it holds in the lives of the men in khaki. Over eighty different concerts and entertainments have been held, with an aggregate attendance of over fifty thousand men. The artists contributing have been the best in the country, including such men as Ysaye, the violinist, the De Wolf Hopper Company and Percy Grainger, the Australian pianist, and many other entertainers of note, all of whom have been only too glad to give their services, to the men in khaki, free of charge.

Along Educational lines, thirty different lectures have been held on various Educational subjects. Classes are organized in English and French. Perhaps the outstanding features are the classes in the above subjects held at the Polish Camp, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Under this head too comes our Library. In all of the larger camps and hospitals these libraries have been established and altogether we are circulating some five thousand volumes. Our supply is inadequate, as the soldiers use these books very extensively and they appreciate very much the efforts of the Association along this line.

In Religious work, our regular meetings and organized Bible Classes have been held, and the attendance at these features has reached over eighteen thousand men. The outstanding feature of this work is the organization of the Personal Workers' Group in one of our larger camps. These men average about seventy-five hours per week as volunteers, on duty, and the results of this work will make a permanent impression on the lives of the men. Already many of them have made decisions for the Christian life. Over one thousand men have already expressed this desire in this area alone, and as a result of the personal interest taken in the men by this group, the Y.M.C.A. is known all over as the place where men who need help and sympathy can come and receive it. Only last week one man, who had just received word from Overseas that his brother had been killed, made at one for the Y.M.C.A. hut, because he felt that, as he put it, there he could receive the sympathy he needed at that particular time and after one of our men had spent over an hour with him, he went away feeling better and happier because of the ministry of that man.

Nowhere in the whole of the Military life of this area is there a greater need than for service to the men in the hospital. Our Secretaries here do all in their power in the way of personal service to help and cheer the men. Letters are written, fruit is distributed, concerts and entertainments arranged for, and in cases where the soldiers have no friends in the city, our Secretaries arrange for some Christian lady to come and spend an hour visiting with him at his bedside. This is real Christian service, and because of the character of it our Secretaries are given a free hand, officers and nurses co-operating in every possible way to make the lives of the men better and more cheerful.

The work at the Red Triangle Club continues to grow every day. Our facilities there are crowded to the utmost, in fact, the environment and spirit is such that many of the returned men, even after they are discharged, continue to frequent the Triangle Club rooms. Since the Club opened in April last, over sixteen thousand men have been accommodated with beds and over fifty thousand meals have been served. Every facility is given to the men for checking their kit bags, writing letters, or anything else that would minister to their needs. On arrival of trains carrying the returned men, the Secretary of this Club meets and welcomes all the men and takes particular care of those who go to outside points.

One of the outstanding features of the work for the past month was that done when the troops were on their trek from Borden Camp. At the request of the Officers, the Association erected two tents at Baxter, the first stop en route. These tents were crowded every night. The men certainly appreciated the free tea and coffee given to them at the conclusion of their first march. Piano, benches and tables were supplied from Camp Borden and entertainments conducted every night. It is needless for us to say that this work was appreciated by the men to the full. In fact, one officer made the statement that it was the nearest thing to France he had seen since his return.

The work for returned soldiers is increasing very rapidly and demands our closest attention with fullest effort and finest sympathy. The first place to carry out the work of welcome is at Halifax, St. John and Quebec. In each of these centres the Y.M.C.A. has a busy staff dealing with the problems as they arise, and carrying on a constant programme of entertainments and service for the men.

The following programme represents a typical week at Quebec, where the "Y" Secretaries organize the work for the city and district. The fullest co-operation of the people has been secured; Churches, Patriotic Societies and Moving Picture Theatres all doing their utmost to serve the men. Free transportation to and from the uptown concerts is supplied by the Quebec Street Railway, and at these concerts one of the "Y" Secretaries usually presides and leads off the programme with a rousing sing-song. Thus, a bright cheery atmosphere is generated and fostered, so that as the men set foot in Canada once more the spirit of good cheer and hearty welcome helps them to determine to make good and carry on in the richest and fullest sense.

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| **Sunday.** | | |
| Concert at Khaki Club at.... | 3.00 p.m. | 200 men |
| Concert and Supper at Y.M. C.A. at..... | 4.00 p.m. | 200 " |
| Pictures of Life of David Livingstone and sing-song of old hymns at Depot at.. | 8.30 p.m. | |
| Military Hospital service at.. | 7.00 p.m. | |
| **Monday.** | | |
| Moving Picture Theatre Party at..... | 1.30 p.m. | 100 men |
| Concert at the Khaki Club at | 7.30 p.m. | 200 " |
| Y.W.C.A. Concert at..... | 7.30 p.m. | 100 " |
| Moving Pictures in the Depot at..... | 8.00 p.m. | |
| **Tuesday.** | | |
| Quebec Auto Club Drive..... | 1.30 p.m. | |
| Moving Picture Theatre Party..... | 1.30 p.m. | 150 men |
| Snow Shoe Club Concert.... | 7.30 p.m. | 150 " |
| Concert in Military Hospital. | 7.30 p.m. | |
| Illustrated Lecture in Depot. | 7.30 p.m. | |
| Concert in Levis Armonies, by Mrs. Fraser and Party.. | 8.00 p.m. | |
| **Wednesday.** | | |
| Moving Picture Theatre Party..... | 1.30 p.m. | 200 men |
| Junior Red Cross Concert in Kirk Hall at..... | 7.30 p.m. | 200 " |
| Slides of Military Hospital Comm. work for returned soldiers across Canada, in Depot, Capt. Jones..... | | |
| **Thursday.** | | |
| Moving Picture Theatre Party at..... | 1.30 p.m. | 150 men |
| Ministry of Munitions Concert in Cathedral Hall at... | 7.30 p.m. | 150 " |
| Lecture on "YUKON" in Depot by Capt. Reid at... | 8.00 p.m. | |
| Lecture in Town Hall on Pensions by Major Buchanan at..... | 8.00 p.m. | |
| **Friday.** | | |
| Moving Picture Theatre Party..... | 1.30 p.m. | 100 men |
| Concert at Chalmers Church. | 7.30 p.m. | 200 " |
| Movies in Depot..... | 8.00 p.m. | |
| **Saturday.** | | |
| Moving Picture Theatre Party..... | 1.30 p.m. | 125 men |
| Sing-song and Set of Slides showing "Canada from Coast to Coast," Depot... | 8.00 p.m. | |

## THE GOOD WORK DONE BY Y.M.C.A. REPRESENTATIVES.

The following article is of particular interest, as the writer rose from the ranks—enlisting as a private—and is now a commissioned officer as well as adjutant of the Depot.—EDITOR.

That Y.M.C.A. representatives in general are the never-failing pals of the man underneath and the continual abomination and source of pestilence to the Upper Lords, has been my experience in two years of firing the furnaces in the Canadian Expeditionary Force at home. From Pte. to Senior Sub. and Adjutant—through the chain of ever-added authority—the "Y" man has stuck like the now famous "cootee" in the front-line trench, and although not nearly so plentiful they're quite as easy to find in any well regulated and properly administered lines.

From the clink to the sanctum-sanctorum of the Most High, the Y's special and his chosen staff are acknowledged generally to be the dispenser of a little good advice, much useless heart-to-heart talk and a whole lot of assistance—most noticable, in fact, when the real occasion arises. Experience has done much for most of the Y's good right-hand men since the war started and they have learned, to the sorrow of many, to deduce at a glance a "touch"—many a well planned "party" for the members of some section or other has gone smash through that "see-it-all-glance" of the worthy "arranger" of the Wednesday night Sing-song, while many a worthy life-saver has been dealt out following a similar glance.

Why the Y man never has his "day-on" or "day-off" and that it's just as easy to sponge a stamp or the wherewithal to borrow the purchase of "smokes" to-day as it will be to-morrow, is a question ever troubling the non-pre-enlisting Y member. Without doubt many war veterans will flock to the Y's colors immediately after this war has been victoriously concluded to learn the little trick of a never-changing personality.

As mixers the Y men whom I have met are unequalled and one moment may be seen passing a joke with a fellow, known throughout the section as a man who wouldn't keep his kit up to strength at the expense of a member of a different company altogether, while the very next moment the same Y fellow may be seen joking pleasantly with a three-conduct sheet man or the worst "old soldier" in the outfit, and of the last named type, never was outfit manned entirely nor without.

As the promoter of sports, from checkers to the noble art of self-defence or army slugging matches, the exponent of painless Christianity excels. In every line of sportsmanship the now famous institution's man is an authority respected by all and called upon at every minute "off-parade" to settle arguments, which might end disastrously if left undecided.

That every non-com. and pte. in the lines flocks to the Y corner for that three-weekly sing-song is sufficient evidence that the promoter is a "good scout" and a real practitioner in administering painless Christianity, and such is the case in every camp or barracks at which I have ever been quartered or have visited. Possibly this is due the privilege granted to every fellow present to dig right in as loud as he can and sing as he never sang before. Every allowance is made for rotten voices and the man with such is just as welcome as the mellow-voiced tenor in the corner.

Picture-shows and stunt-nights are the forte of the Y's man and the never-failing source of

pleasure to the men after the big hike or the day's scheme. Tattoo generally finds the ranker with a pipe or fag in his mouth comfortably settled on a rustic bench "somewhere in the recreation room," enjoying the pictures or thoroughly enjoying the efforts of some comrade to entertain him. On Stunt-Night each and every member is personally invited to do a little stunt for his pal's pleasure, and never was outfit formed with a dearth of comedians or highly trained entertainers and vocalists. Members of the brass band can always be found "doing their little bit" to help the show along.

Altogether the Y man is the man of the moment at every camp and barracks, and to him almost entirely is due the credit of the now famous Canadian morale.

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## NO SENTIMENT IN BUSINESS!
### The Y.M.C.A. Answer.

By CAPT. DINGLE.

"THE Y.M.C.A. shall have first claim on our output for the boys overseas," is the invariable attitude of the Canadian business man to-day. No need to demonstrate further that there is sentiment in business. There is sentiment, plenty of it, and the statement of facts as to the service the Y.M.C.A. is carrying on in the fighting areas in France invariably brings out a loyal and sympathetic response in the form of practical assistance.

The greater part of supplies and equipment for the Y.M.C.A. work in France is now being purchased in Canada. *Made-in-Canada* goods are in evidence in the shell-swept fighting areas in Flanders. They bring comfort and cheer to our boys who are bravely doing their bit in the rain and mud, for the eternal glory of their home land. Nothing is too good for these men; only the best that can be procured is sent over. And the supplies from home, bearing the familiar labels and names on the packages (names often of their own home towns), are greeted with joy and the contents of the packages are downed with a relish, in the knowledge that they come from Canada, the land they are fighting for, the land where their loved ones are, the land they have learned to love with a new and greater love than ever before. Right up near the front trenches our Y.M.C.A. men are carrying on, night and day. Our dugouts are well supplied with these goods from home—tinned fruits, biscuits, chocolate and the ever-welcome "smokes," together with many other delicacies that cannot be secured from any other source. They are all reminders from home, and anything from home is doubly welcome.

**No Sentiment in Business!** This is not so in the Y.M.C.A. business; sentiment runs through every thread of it. It exists in the hearts of the men who direct it, in the hearts of the Y.M.C.A. men who "carry on" at the Front, in the hearts of the men from whom supplies and equipment are secured, and particularly in the hearts and lives of the men in the fighting line, who are being reached by the Y.M.C.A. service. To all of these it is the King's Business—Christian principles in action.

## THE Y AND THE WHEREFORE.

CONTRIBUTED.

THERE is a well-known saying that there is a place for everything, and nothing could be truer; nor could anything describe the Y.M.C.A. better than by saying that its place is where the soldiers are.

We sometimes forget that the men who are wearing the King's uniform in this war are volunteers; men who, before the Kaiser showed his real self, were content to sit by the fireside at home and read of the brave deeds of the knights of long ago—these are the men who are fighting our battles and the battles of the generations yet to come. The peace time soldier took up soldiering as his life's work; never expected to get much else than soldiering out of it, and as a rule seldom did get very much else. Our present fighters, however, miss the comforts of home life—and this is particularly noticeable from the way these men congregate wherever the Y.M.C.A. is located. A man may be dead tired, completely fagged out from his day's duties, but I have yet to see him too tired to attend a Y sing-song, a Y concert or a Y lecture (usually illustrated). And how they do enjoy these "touches of home." Great big husky chaps—the kind of men who have written the name of Canada in large letters in history—will sit and listen to the entertainers gotten together by the Y.M.C.A. workers, and when the old songs they used to hear at home are being sung, they'll furtively wipe away the tell-tale tear with a grimy sleeve, glancing round the while in case someone sees them doing it. And the peculiar part of it is that most of them are doing the self-same thing. And when scenes are shown of the Land of the Maple Leaf—then you see the heads held high, the chins stuck out and the glint of pride in the eyes of Canada's stalwarts—when these scenes are shown the men live a new life, and as one big Highlander from Ontario put it, "We can't go home; we don't want to go home until the Germans are beaten; but say, how good those views of the homeland look to me. If they never gave me anything else than a glimpse of the land I love, I'd vote for the Y every time." There it is—Canada is a young country; Canada lacks a lot of the historic sights that Europe can boast of, but for the Canuck, be he a native or adopted son of the country, there is only one homeland, and that homeland is Canada!

But I started out to tell you about the "Y and the Wherefore." Shortly after one of the big scraps we were engaged in, I met a little cockney who had lived several years in Hamilton, Ont. He was covered with mud from head to toe and he looked about all in. I asked him, "Where for, matey?" and he answered "Y." I told him if he'd be a little more civil I'd give him a lift, as I was going to get a transport waggon. His answer was characteristic of his race: "YawrskedmewereforanIblinkinwell awnserstothbloominY-Hem-See-Hay — annow yerejollywellalosinofyeretimper." Needless to say the man got a lift to the Y hut—and also had a smoke and a hot coffee at my expense. The one popular place, when off duty (and I'm afraid

very often when on duty) is the Y.M.C.A. hut or dugout. Men who thought little or nothing of the Y in civilian life have come to know it as "A home in the midst of very unhomelike surroundings." A French Canadian—a former resident of Montreal, Que.—told me one day: "I ain't got much use for the Y.M.C.A. when I live in Montreal, but when I get back home I won't let no one say nothing again the Y. I may be French and they may be English but we're friends all the time—whether I am here or I am in Canada, it makes no matter."

Another little experience may be interesting. In the heavy shot-up area last winter I happened in the Y dugout in time to see a soldier—I don't know what brigade he belonged to—frantically hunting through all his pockets in search of something seemingly very precious. In front of him was a mug (we don't get five o'clock tea china over here!) of steaming hot coffee and a sandwich. I heard him remark to the Y attendant, "It's no use; I've lost it, so I guess I'll get warm by turning into my blankets." He didn't have to, however, because the member of the Red Triangle told the man to "Go to it and forget the price." Do you remember when you got the thing you most wanted at Christmas time when you were a boy? Well, that is how this man looked when he got that hot coffee that he not only wanted but NEEDED. Do you think that man will forget that little touch of kindness? Not for many a long day. Bear in mind this was not in one of the front line dugouts but well to the rear. In the front liners we don't have to pay.

And so it goes. First one fellow has a good turn done him and then another, and then another *ad lib.*, or should I say *ad infin.?*

The Y.M.C.A. has done good work for the boys; it is doing good work for the boys, and I know it will continue to do good work for our boys. The old version of a popular song which went, "Any old place I can hang my hat is home, sweet home to me," has now changed to "Any old place I see the Red Triangle is home, sweet home to me." But don't take my word for it—ask any of the men who have been in the war zone since the Y.M.C.A. has had a chance to get in properly on the work. Too many judge things by the way the start was made—but I'd hate to have to go by my judgment of these same men regarding their fitness to be soldiers if I took their "rooky" days as a standard. There isn't a fairminded man who has anything but praise for the Y.M.C.A. and its work. Most of the faultfinders can't get accustomed to being treated like men—it's too deep for them—and what they can't understand they knock. It may be a soldier's privilege to grouch, but the grouch is ill-timed if it is aimed at the Y.

## THE RED TRIANGLE AT NIAGARA.

GTOWNA-KWATENA, this sign tells the 4,500 Polish soldier boys encamped at Niagara on the Lake that the Red Triangle is on the job and is performing its role of service for their special benefit. The Y.M.C.A. had a great opportunity of introducing its work to a nation which until now has known nothing whatever of its influence; and the National Council, realizing the importance of such an introduction, has established, equipped and are maintaining the Red Triangle (when they haven't even a canteen to fall back on for partial support). The question might be asked: Do these men, a large proportion of whom cannot speak English, appreciate what is being done for them? I wish it were possible to have the men themselves tell you what they think, but since that is impossible let me say that there never were more appreciative men than these are. Accustomed as they have been to a struggling existence under German, Austrian or Russian domination, they have come out to the United States, where they have had to work hard for everything they have acquired, and it is altogether foreign to their minds that they should have anyone or any organization do things for them from an altogether unselfish motive. When, however, they do begin to realize what the Red Triangle stands for, their enthusiasm is unbounded. We are often assailed with the question: "But how can the Y.M.C.A. afford to do all this for us, for nothing?" We tell them that the people of Canada, through the Y.M.C.A., wish to be of service to them by organizing concerts, helping them play games, giving them instruction in English and French, supplying them with magazines and writing materials, and doing any one of a score of things for their comfort and pleasure. Invariably they tell us that it is beyond their understanding that anyone should wish to do anything for them for nothing.

**Religious.**—98% of the men are Roman Catholics. Every Sunday morning the men parade *en masse* to the Y.M.C.A. quarters where a Polish priest conducts mass for them. A rather unusual sight it is, too. But it surely proves beyond a doubt the broadmindedness of the National Council and their earnest desire to be of service regardless of race, creed or denomination.

**Third Side of the Triangle.**—Seeing that our work along the spiritual line was of necessity curtailed, we decided we must find another line of work to fit into the third side of our triangle. It was not hard to find, and now our programme embraces the social, physical and educational.

**Social.**—Our social work is one continual round of varied entertainment. The men have come to expect and look forward to the Y.M.C.A. concerts at headquarters every night. Our hall accommodates 1200 men and every evening by seven o'clock it is packed to capacity, and if it were allowed the aisles would also be choked. We have found it necessary to employ the aid of eight policemen to keep within the regulations imposed by the Fire Underwriters.

At times we have experienced difficulty in getting programmes, as our scope is necessarily very narrow. The men not being able to understand English, our concerts have to consist chiefly of musical numbers. Then, again, our village is only able to give us about one concert in three weeks as the same artists compose every programme. St. Catharines is practically our only recruiting ground, but on account of the difficulty of going back and forth we are somewhat handicapped, except when some kind friends of the Association permit the use of their motors.

**Programme.**—Let me briefly describe a week's programme. On Monday evening we have the presentation of prizes from Saturday's athletic meet, by some of the headquarters officers. Moving pictures comprise the remainder of the programme. On Tuesday evening a party from St. Catharines put on the musical hit of the week. This concert is always very popular. On Wednesday evening we get a young Polish officer to preside and arrange a programme from one of the companies. This generally consists of about 35 musical numbers contributed by the men themselves. Thursday evening is the most popular of the week, and is known as "stunt night." Blindfold boxing, pie-eating contests, pillow-fights on a rail, cock-fighting, eating biscuits and whistling, French wrestling, pick-a-back wrestling, and many other events are on the programme. On this night it is necessary to come at 6.30 if a seat is to be obtained. Friday evening finds us again with a Polish concert. The men are anxious to get a chance in these programmes, which are thoroughly enjoyed by their comrades. Saturday night we have movies again, which are ever popular. Sunday morning is taken up with masses, but in the afternoon and evening Polish programmes are put on.

**Athletics.**—The season is not the best for outdoor athletics, but so far we have been able to conduct an Athletic Meet every Saturday. These events have been exceedingly popular, and nearly 400 men take part in the events every week-end. The men know nothing about games but are keen on wrestling, boxing, etc. Once, however, they become familiar with a game they practice incessantly, and now they are becoming quite proficient in football, baseball and other Canadian sports.

**Scholastic.**—French classes have been conducted for the Polish probationary officers and English classes for the N.C.O.'s and men. All are very keen to learn and many of them are making marked progress in their studies.

**Great Writers.**—Weekly, these men use 25,000 sheets of paper, 10,000 envelopes and thousands of cards. They are great writers, and everywhere the Red Triangle holders are eagerly sought for.

**Accommodation.**—Niagara has never before been used as a winter camp, and consequently there is no accommodation for the number of men here. Men are quartered in the City Hall, Salvation Army Hall, canning factories, hotels, houses, garages, the Old Ladies' Home and in the Masonic Hall, as well as the tents and huts on the commons. This condition makes our work more difficult as we have to cover such an area with our paper, magazines, etc.

**Personal Service.**—We are called upon to write dozens of letters every week, arrange for the transfer of bank accounts from the United States to Canada, secure money orders, carry the men's money, pay insurance premiums, draw up affidavits, witness transfers, and do all sorts of things which appear trivial to us but which bulk large in their estimate of the work of the Y.M.C.A.

R. L. BECKETT.

# Railroad Department.

J. M. DUDLEY, SEC'Y.

THE Ottawa Convention was honored by the attendance of two private cars bringing officially appointed delegates from the Canadian Pacific and the Grand Trunk Railways.

Mr. A. Price, Assistant General Manager, strongly endorsed the work of the Railroad Department on the C.P.R., and said it was a fulfilment of the lines by Sam Walter Foss:

"Let me live in a house by the
side of the road,
And be a friend to man."

Mr. W. D. Robb, Vice-President of the Grand Trunk, announced that his Company was prepared to co-operate with the Y.M.C.A. in giving the 700 apprentice boys on the system lectures on Sex Education and warning against the diseases of immorality. The Grand Trunk is leading the railways of the country in combating this evil, which is not new, but has gained a new attention because of the War. Just as the country loses the services of soldiers through this cause, so railways and other corporations suffer loss of time and efficiency because men and boys become victims of a disease more deadly than the white plague.

The Railway Department can report a new building nearing completion on the C.P.R., the opening of two new Associations and the enlargement of two buildings on the Grand Trunk. More significant than the above is the fact that 368 shop men have joined one of our Grand Trunk Associations. The slogan of this campaign was, "Remember what the Y.M.C.A. is doing at the Front." Common ground has been found with laboring men. The great question is—Can we hold it? Will this favorable reaction of the work in the army huts, on our working men at home, become a permanent asset?

Will the comradeship of the trenches and the khaki survive the day when our men put off the uniform and reclothe themselves, some in blue overalls and some in better dress?

The great task of holding and building on the interest awakened must not be delegated to the Railroad and Industrial Departments of the Association. This is a task for the whole forces of the Church and the Y.M.C.A., city, college, military, industrial and railroad. The door is open to the mechanical class to which Jesus belonged and still belongs. The door will close again unless the best thought of the Church and much prayer is given to the redemption of that one-third of Canada's people who live by manual labor.

Will the great spirit of Christian democracy developed in this war survive the putting off of the khaki and the putting on of the overalls?

The united Christian forces of Canada must answer this question.

# Safety First—For Others

**"The bravest men in the battle were the Y.M.C.A. Officers."**

TOO many of us think that unless a man is in what is known in Military circles as "A Combatant Unit," he must be holding down a "Safety First" job. Nothing is further from the truth than this.

In the case of the Y.M.C.A. officer—who does not and never did claim to be a "Combatant"—the dangers encountered are equally as great as the actual fighter, and furthermore he needs the added courage made necessary through not being one of the firing party.

The following three incidents in the lives of Association men in the war zone will show the fallacy of the very wide belief that the Y.M.C.A. men have an easy time, out of harm's way.

But before referring to these reports, let me quote from a letter received from an officer who has been in the thickest of the fighting. He says, in part, "To my way of thinking, the bravest men in the battle were the Y.M.C.A. Captains. There they were, with nothing more dangerous to defend themselves with than a couple of mugs of hot drinks, which they were distributing free to our men as they got a breathing spell. Time after time, with the shells breaking all around them, these men of service continued their work because, as one man said, 'It is my duty.' No praise is too high for the Y.M.C.A. men. They deserve much more than they get."

(1) The following testimony is from Captain Kent, who was formerly Professor at Pine Hill College, Halifax:—

"Allow me to say that as a combatant officer, I have watched the work of the Y.M.C.A. among the men with an evergrowing admiration. It has looked after the souls and bodies of the men in a splendid way; and now, if this mental need, this hunger to learn something which is so apparent among the men, can be met by this new work, another big step forward will have been taken. I had a class in history for an hour's lecture last Wednesday, and a more interested lot of men could not be found anywhere. I have also been talking to some of the officers about a similar work among them, and most of them would welcome it with enthusiasm."

(2) Extract from letter from Capt. E. M. Best to Dr. Brown, dated Headquarters, France, November 6, 1917:—

Our canteen and other gifts to the wounded during this last battle have fully exceeded anything that we have done in this direction heretofore. Notwithstanding that shell fire of the very heaviest nature has been concentrated on an exceedingly narrow front, we have been able to operate 15 places night and day along the roads in front of a famous town. In addition to these we have an equal number of places farther back. Some of our officers and men have had almost miraculous escapes. For instance, Capt. Cross had a Y.M.C.A. mug in his hand when a piece of shell in its career left only the handle on his finger. The men also have been very fortunate, and up to the present we have only had two wounded. You can easily understand that the lack of cover on this front makes this work particularly necessary as well as dangerous.

And (3), the following Canadian Associated Cable from London:—

London, Nov. 22.—Major Cashwell of Calgary is in Gray's Inn Hospital suffering from varied injuries. Firstly, he received a shrapnel wound on the front line; secondly, when walking towards the casualty station he was run into by a Staff motor car, which damaged him much more. However, he is now quite comfortable.

"Keep cheerful, chaps; I will be back in a few minutes with another load," said Captain James Clarke, Y.M.C.A. officer, with blood soaking through his clothing from a shrapnel wound in the shoulder. He went off, as he thought, for a few minutes' expostulation with a field hospital surgeon. It resulted in the latter getting the best of the argument, consequently Captain Clarke is now in a hospital in England. He belongs to Allandale, Ontario.

There may be "Safety First" jobs in the army, but they certainly are not held by Y.M.C.A. men.

## Report of 2nd National Convention

**Bound copies of the proceedings of the Second National Convention, held at Ottawa, Nov. 2-5, 1917, may be had on application to Editorial Secretary, National Council, 120 Bay Street, at 50c. each. This volume will contain the important addresses, verbatim, as well as the report of the business sessions.**

# With L. A. Dixon in Mesopotamia

By B. H. McClain.

"What! the Y.M. in this God-forsaken country? Too good to be true," a Tommy was overheard to remark as the newly disembarked troops marched by the Association hut under the date palm trees on their way to the huge tent city out upon the sun-scorched desert a few miles away. The scene was at Basio on the Tigris river and the country so characterized was "the region where the Garden of Eden was laid out," and great eastern nations have risen, struggled and fallen. The Tommy didn't know he was treading such historic soil, but he had sized up the country and his verdict was unfavourable. The early history of this compaign is tragic,—a record of "defeat, loss, suffering and surrender," but this year has been one of glorious achievement and the Association has shared in it.

## ASSOCIATION HUTS.

Y.M.C.A. huts are to be found in every important camp from Busra to Baghdad on the Tigris and from Qurnah (the traditional site of the Garden of Eden) to Nasiriyeh on the Euphrates, and these huts have been the centre of the social, recreational and religious life of the camps. The term hut designates any kind of building or shelter used by the Association. It may be part of the barracks, a brick building, wooden hall, circus tent, or a shelter of reeds and straw in the form of a huge tunnel. Sometimes it is a dugout back of the firing line equipped with papers, stationery, gramaphone, games, boxes for tables and sand bags for benches. The larger centres are equipped with pianos, billiard tables, libraries, cinemas, stereopticans, athletic equipment and musical instruments for the Indian troops. The story as to how this equipment reached up-river stations forms a small history of itself—it suffices to record that many a river steamer captain, feeling keenly the loneliness and barrenness of the life of the "Tommies" up the line, aided by stowing away a piano or a dozen boxes on a ship already loaded to the waterline, when the willing and sympathetic military officer was unable to assist on account of official red tape.

## THE GOSPEL ON THE TIGRIS RIVER.

Space permits just two sketches of the work. First, an Association Song Service: The day had been intensely hot and close, the thermometer registering 116 degrees in the shade, but now the evening breeze was blowing and the sides of the hospital huts were being raised to permit the weary, perspiring patients a breath of the fresher cool air as it blew in from off the Tigris river. The Association song service was just being started outside the hall. A "Tommy" was making the much used piano do valiant service on old hymns. Patients who could do so slipped out of the huts in their pajama suits and joined the gathering crowd. Some stood, some sat upon the ground, while others occupied the few benches and chairs scattered about; the men seemed to find keen enjoyment in the service and called for their favorite hymns, singing with great enthusiasm. It stirred one's blood to hear them sing "Onward, Christian Soldiers," and "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name;" to feel their response to that fine hymn, "O Love that will not let me go," and to catch their spirit as they sang more quietly still,

> "Peace, perfect peace, death shadowing us and ours,
> Jesus has vanquished death and all its powers!"

for these men were familiar with death and daily saw comrades carried out to be laid at rest under the palm trees—and so the service proceeded until the shadows darkened and the stars began to light up the heavens. Then the speaker arose. Simply, tellingly, convincingly he talked to that circle of men about God their Father, whom many supposed they had left behind when they joined the army or passed Suez; with apt illustration he showed that God's Spirit penetrates even into hell and in the midst of sin touches and quickens men's hearts by his wondrous love. The men sat quiet and intent, and when the words rang forth, "Men, God spake to Moses in the desert, and He speaks to you also to-night: 'put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the barracks wherein thou sleepest is holy ground and the ranks wherein thou walkest are sacred to me,'" the message struck home.

A short prayer closed the service; the men seemed to dissolve into the night in the direction of barracks, billet and hospital; only the night nurses were to be seen, passing from hut to hut. In the silence we knew that God had spoken to Men.

Second, an Indian Soldiers' Hut.—For the Indian troops service is now being rendered in 25 centres, and a fine group of young Indian college men have been enlisted who are keen on serving their fellows. An Indian hut is full of interest. At the cinema shows the Sepoys evince great interest in the moving pictures and listen attentively to the explanation by the secretaries; sometimes war gifts are distributed at these performances, or a few bottles of Eau de Cologne are passed around to be sprinkled upon handkerchief or puggarree, much to their delight, for the Sepoy loves perfume. At their concerts all squat upon the ground, a half-dozen drums and a harmonium are placed in the centre and the musicians begin to play. Someone sings a song, the audience keeping time by clapping of hands, all joining in the chorus or refrain. Their sense of humor is by no means dull, and the man who puts on a poor song is always "ragged." During an evening's entertainment songs may be sung in several languages, as troops from different parts of India speak either Hindi, Urdu, Marathi, Gurumurki, Malayalam, Tamil or some other dialect. The Indian canteens supply sugar, native sweets, tobacco and vegetables, and the sales range from one-half cent to sixteen cents.

Most Sepoys are good athletes and they enjoy football and hockey immensely, so that we are able to arrange matches between regiments and sometimes with British teams.

# The New Naval Hut at Halifax

## The First Building Furnished for the Sailors by the Y.M.C.A. Inside a Dockyard in the British Empire.

[As we go to press word is received of the destruction of our Naval Hut in the Halifax catastrophe,]

AN event, unique in the annals of Canadian Association history, took place at Halifax on Thursday, November the 22nd, when the new Naval Building was opened with appropriate ceremonies.

The Lobby, or Recreation Room, was crowded with men in blue from many ships in port, and prominent citizens, who were present in large numbers for the occasion.

The Dedicatory Prayer was offered by His Grace Archbishop Worrell of the diocese of Nova Scotia, after which Major John Brown representing the National Council, in an inspiring address on the aims of the Association in erecting the building, and expressing the pleasure it gave him to be present at this, the opening of Canada's first Naval Association, declared the building open for the use of the many men connected with the naval boats calling at Halifax, as well as for those permanently located.

Captain Commander Martin, C.M.G., and Captain Newcombe on behalf of the Navy, expressed their appreciation of the work being done by the Association, and especially for this new evidence of interest. Capt. Martin supplemented the remarks of Major Brown by stating that this was the first building of the kind in an Imperial dockyard.

General Benson, G.O.C., Military District No. 6, was represented by Colonel Armstrong and Major Soulis, both of whom referred to the splendid work which had been done in the district by the Maritime Association for the soldiers, and expressing their own, as well as those of the General, good wishes for the work being launched for the men of the Navy.

Mayor Martin commended the committee on their enterprise in attempting to meet a long felt need in the city, referring to the breadth of the Association's sympathies, which were not confined to any creed.

Rev. Dr. Clark brought greetings from the Churches.

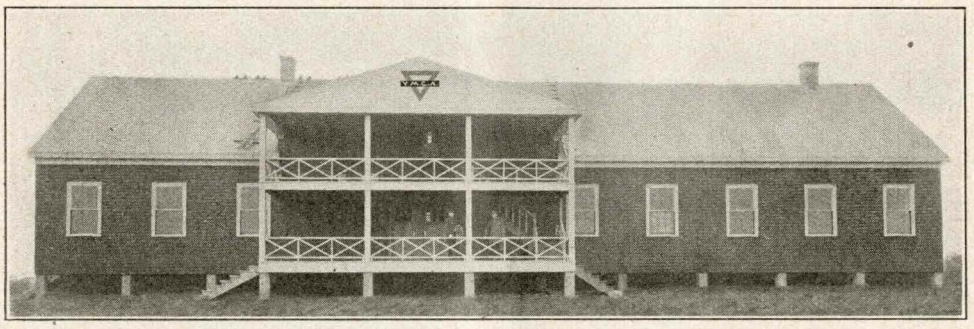
Mr. C. J. Burchell, a Maritime representative on the National Council, acted as chairman.

Capt. Kneale and J. L. Love made short addresses, the latter being introduced as Canada's first Naval Secretary.

Representatives from the Red Cross Society, Women's Council, W.C.T.U., Sailors' Comfort Committee, and many other organizations with whom the Association co-operates in Halifax, were present.

The building is situated in the heart of the dockyard, and is easy of access to hundreds of men at all times, and is of wooden construction.

The dimensions are 35 by 110 ft. At one end there are two excellent class rooms; these will be used in the capacity of dressing rooms when concerts are held. The lobby, or recreation room, is 35 by 70 ft., finished in Douglas fir to the roof, the beams being exposed and stained.



Possibly the most pleasing feature in the room is the large splendidly constructed fireplace, the material used being field stone, the design very suitable.

Writing and game tables abound, to meet the needs of the men all of whom are away from home; additional furnishings include piano, victrola, and English billiard table, the latter being a gift from the Women's Council of Halifax; the general effect reached is decidedly "homey."

Adequate dressing rooms are provided; shower baths, wash rooms, office, and coffee stall, where the men coming in off patrol and other boats will always be able to get good hot drinks, the W.C.T.U. providing coffee urns.

The front door opens on a large "double deck" verandah 12 by 30 ft., overlooking the harbour and the beautiful town of Dartmouth just opposite.

Extensive use of the privileges is being made, and there is promise of a splendid work being done for the "Men of the Navy."

Photos illustrating the various features of the building have been taken and will be published in an early edition of CANADIAN MANHOOD.

# LETTERS

## LETTER FROM THE O.C., 2ND CANADIAN RESERVE BRIGADE, AT SHORNCLIFFE CAMP.

Headquarters,
2nd Canadian Reserve Bgde.,
SHORNCLIFFE, KENT, 5th Oct., 1917.

To Supervisor,
Canadian Y.M.C.A.,
Shorncliffe Area.

Sir,—I would just like to express my appreciation of the work you have done and are doing in this area, both in regard to stimulating interest in sports and in doing good otherwise. Your organization has been of the greatest benefit to the Camp.

The lectures and entertainments which I have attended I have found to be most enjoyable, and if all ranks knew how enjoyable they were your huts would be overflowing.

I would like to see more officers at these meetings, and I think it is a case of their being uninformed of what is going on.

I wish you every success in your splendid work.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) J. E. LECKIE,
Colonel,
O.C. 2nd Canadian Reserve Brigade.

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The following is extract from a letter from one of our Canadian boys who was gassed in France, and sent to England to recuperate. Dated Nov. 5th, 1917:

The idea just occurred to me, while sitting in the cosy room of the Y.M. hut, wouldn't this be just the place to write a letter to—— ——. I rarely enter a Y.M. building without thinking of you and of your interest in the Association. Of course I cannot continue this without making some reference to the manner in which these people look so well after our needs. We are encamped out here on the Plains of——, five miles from the nearest town—very little opportunity of getting there, and consequently spend practically all our time in the area. Our huts are large, drafty, cheerless buildings, the last place in the world to spend these long November evenings in. There is not a place of amusement of any kind outside of the Y.M.C.A. You cannot imagine what this means to us. I don't know how we would manage without it. We come down every evening after dinner and spend our time here. There is absolutely no charge for anything—a big lounging room, with all kinds of easy chairs, papers, magazines, and a library; a large billard room with four tables for those who wish to use them; a couple of pianos; blazing fires—in short, everything conceivable to make us comfortable and at home. The place is always filled. We could fill another two or three. They certainly are doing a wonderful work. *Next war, if I am too old to go to the front, I sure will do my bit in trying to support the Y.M.C.A.*

## COPY OF LETTER RECEIVED FROM 15TH CANADIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE, WITLEY CAMP, SURREY.

I am directed by the G.O.C., 15th Canadian Infantry Brigade, to acknowledge receipt of a copy of your report addressed to G.O.C., 5th Canadian Division.

The G.O.C., 15th Canadian Infantry Brigade, is much interested in the excellent work carried on by the Y.M.C.A., and especially in that of No. 3 Hut, which principally serves the men of this Brigade. The notable increase in the work carried out on our lines is most satisfactory, particularly valuable being the supervision of men who are careless in their correspondence, assistance in the organization of sports for the healthy occupation of leisure time, and the educational and religious services.

(Signed) S. B. MACDONALD,
Captain,
Orderly Officer, 15th Can. Inf. Brigade.

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## LETTER FROM PADRE OF 1st DIVISION.

13 M.D. B 23 A 1.
Headquarters M.D. 13.
Travis Block,
CALGARY, 23rd Oct., 1917.

From:—The District Officer Commanding,
M.D. No. 13.

To:—E. C. Cameron, Esq., Secretary,
Military Y.M.C.A,
Victoria Park,
Calgary.

Y.M.C.A.

Sir,—In reply to yours of the 20th inst., asking for a written expression of opinion of the work of the Y.M.C.A. in this Military District, and particularly with reference to Sarcee Camp during 1917, I have the honor to state:—

The work performed by the Y.M.C.A. during Camp 1917 was in every way admirable. The provision of attractive entertainments, concerts and picture shows gave great pleasure and assisted materially in keeping the men in camp and suitably employed during leisure hours. The religious services and meetings could not fail to have a beneficial effect, and the general assistance given to the men by the provision of banking facilities, reading and writing rooms, with indoor games, helped to make less appreciable the inevitable inconveniences of camp life.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) G. MACDONALD,
Colonel, Commanding Military
District No. 13.

# LETTERS

Canadian Y.M.C.A. Camp,
"Somewhere in France."

We learned that, on a certain night, there was to be a change up the line. The ——th Brigade was to relieve the ——th, and our camp was so placed that the opportunity was given us to render a real bit of service to the boys on this night.

Our camp was at the junction of two roads, both of which would be used by the troops in coming out of the line. The men would walk a long distance before reaching our camp, the nights were getting chilly, and we decided to have "something hot" for the boys when they reached the "Y."

During the afternoon a framework, eight feet by five, was built, and a little over six feet in height. In the front, a number of small biscuit cases were placed so as to form a counter and provide shelving from behind. A heavy tarpaulin was thrown over the framework covering the top and sides, and was fastened by nailing small strips on it to the framework. A large size brazier was placed at the rear with a boiler on it filled with water. Broken packing cases and other bits of wood were gathered and all was ready except boiling the water and making the tea.

Just after dark, advance parties and transports began to come along and the "Y" had a cup of hot tea for all who wished it. About one o'clock in the morning, the men were coming along in large numbers. It was a clear, cool moonlight night, and as the men came down the road there were practically no lights to be seen except the candles on the counters of the Y.M.C.A. stall.

The men lined up in parties of ten, fifteen, twenty, and sometimes in only threes and fours, all waiting for a "bracer." When a large party came along, they would get their tea and sit down along the bank on the edge of the road to drink it.

As we stood back chatting to a group of two or three of the boys, or watched the men sitting along the bank drinking tea,and others constantly coming down the road, we overheard the remarks of many of the men and felt repaid a hundred times over for our bit of service. Did they appreciate it, you ask? All night long we constantly heard from the boys such words as these:

"Hurrah boys, here's a Y!"
"Good old Y, God bless it!"
"I'll be hanged if the 'Y' ain't always on the job!"
"Gee, boys, isn't that great tea? It sure is a life-saver!"
"I don't know what we boys would do sometimes if it wasn't for the Y!"
"We don't very often get tea like this!"
"This is the kind of tea you have to come to the Y for, Eh! Bill?"
"That's great; I'm good for another mile or so, now!"

The men felt refreshed and encouraged as a result of the "Y" service in that tea stall, and we believe it was measuring up to our ideals in a real practical way.

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## THE "Y" PAYS BIG DIVIDENDS TO THE BOYS IN KHAKI.

Extract from a letter dated France, October 26th, to a friend in Winnipeg:

"No, I have no objection to you using my letter as you see fit—of course, as you say, not using the name. As far as the 'Y' is concerned, some of the chaps don't realize that it is a thing not under the Government; that is the real reason for any complaints. They have got so used to it, that they look at it as part of the Army organization—just the same as the A.S.C. or other auxiliary corps. But—I would hate to see a cessation of its activities. To a great many, the 'Y' has been the only thing to really brighten their lives at times. For example, a picture: A training camp in England—October—more than sufficient rain—a bunch of new troops arrived from Canada—huts all filled up—sleep in tents, fourteen to a tent meant for eight or nine—rain ten days out of the first twelve (such was the time we had this time last year). At the 'Y'—heat—warm drinks—company—paper to write home—'Something doing every night' (the motto of this hut)—concerts, sing-songs, etc. So you can assure people in Canada that they are not throwing away their money by investing in 'Y' stock. It pays big dividends to the boys in khaki."

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Extract from letter dated November 19th, 1917, to Mr. W. J. Bolus from Lieut. Geo. H. Ferguson:

"I was very much pleased to note also that the Lodge was lending assistance to the work of the Military Y.M.C.A. This institution is carrying on a work that is deserving of very much praise. Many a time I had seen the "Tommies" returning from a tour in the trenches, cold and wearied, and covered with wet slimy mud, brighten up at the prospect of the hot coffee and biscuits, not to mention the generally cheerful aspect of most of the "Y" tents. And there is also a place to sit at a table and write home to loved ones, etc., etc. I have become much more enthusiastic respecting the Military Y.M.C.A. since I have seen it in action than I was before coming to France."

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Extract from letter to Mr. W. J. Bolus from Lce.-Cpl. Jas. E. Chew:

"I am sure the effort of the members of the Lodge to raise money for Y.M.C.A. work is a very worthy object. A large number of our soldiers in England, and I believe also in France, find pleasant associations, good concerts, almost every evening, and good sound advice in the Y.M.C.A. huts and marquees."

# LETTERS

——Reserves,——Brigade, FRANCE.

Dear Walt,—It's a long time since I saw you when we were together with the old battalion, and a mighty lot of things have occurred since then. I hear you are with the Y.M.C.A. now and it certainly is a great institution. I remember we did not make much use of it when in Canada, but when the bunch reached the English camps, where we had to buckle down to real soldiering—no invites to dinner every night there—believe me the old Y.M.C.A. looked good to us. Before telling you of my experiences with them here in France, let me tell you something about them in England. You more than likely know all this already but a good thing can be repeated without hurt—and the Y is sure one good thing—for the soldiers anyway.

One thing that struck me very forcibly was the rising in the spirits of the men once they got used to the Y.M.C.A. service. At first we were all too blamed independent to feel we could accept free concerts and the other ministrations we have since learned to look for and expect. Free concerts used to mean some faked medicine show in my mind—that was before I ran into real soldiering. Now free concerts—if conducted by the Y.M.C.A.—mean a mighty good show, as good or better than most of the vaudeville houses charge seventy-five cents for at home. It is surprising how much fine talent there is and the Y seems to know how to dig up this talent. Usually we have a programme that covers the whole menu of entertainment, from soup to nuts. There isn't a dull moment the whole evening—there never is. How the Y men can work all day then bob up serenely with a concert at night is past me. I used to think I was overworked if I rehearsed a couple of nights a week. Say, they talk about the regular soldier having a hard time of it, but believe me he has a pipe when contrasted with the Y man.

The Bible study classes and religious meetings are doing more good among the men than is generally admitted. We all hate to admit we were not Christians before, and for this reason among others the outside people never hear of the good done us at these sing-songs, etc.

And say, you should know also the good your people are doing for the men in London on leave. Talk about a bunch of fellows from the country landing in a city to see a circus! But when we first land over in the big world we sure look fine and fit to be picked. Green? Why we haven't started to grow.

I don't want to mention any names in particular on the staff of the Y, but here was one fellow during the time of the bombing scare that was as close to being a good Samaritan as anyone I ever heard of or saw. Many a man was scared stiff, and a lot weren't ashamed to admit it either. It was during this time the Y men got in their good work. They handed out man-sized Christianity in doses that all could swallow—and enjoy the swallowing. Many a man was the better for the experience, so the bomb scares did some good.

In France it is one continual display of self-sacrifice on the part of the Association men. They never seem to need sleep or rest and they work day and night. Grouch? They don't know the meaning of the word. They are willing workers, and untiring workers as well. I never saw anything like it. Our padres are very necessary, but I'd rather see them missing than the Y workers. I think all agree with me, too.

I heard a fellow grouching because he didn't get all his things free from the canteen. It turned out he wanted about most everything the canteen handled—not excepting a safety razor. So far as I can see we pay less than might be expected—certainly less than I have paid for the same articles in Canada, and when we get up round where the fighting is going on—we don't pay at all. But, there is bound to be grouching or it would not be soldiering. Anyone that doesn't get criticized isn't doing very much in the world—so cheer up, the BEST is yet to come. It is after the war the Y.M.C.A. will benefit for what it has done for us here. The boys will never forget the hot drinks handed out; the little friendly message given us as we go into the trenches, and the service rendered whenever there is call for it—these are the things we can never forget. If I am any judge, the Y.M.C.A.'s all over the country will have to get larger buildings to take care of the fellows who will flock to the Y when the war is done. We have got so used to looking to the Y for anything and everything that it will be hard to get back on the old plane.

I am glad you are with the Y. You couldn't be doing a better work, even if you were in the trenches.

C. T. MILLS.

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## "WINNING THE WAR."

"Writing to a friend at the War Office, a Captain in the Australian Forces, who has fought at the front for three years, says: 'The Y.M.C.A. has won the war on the Western front.'"

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## SIR D. HAIG AND Y.M.C.A.

Sir Douglas Haig sends the following autograph letter to the Y.M.C.A. in connection with the Leamington Hut Week:

General Headquarters,
British Armies in France.

Dear Sir,—The value of the work done by the Y.M.C.A. huts in France is incalculable. I should esteem it a double honour that one of them should bear my name, and that it should be provided by the people of Leamington.—Yours very truly,

D. HAIG.

# Glimpses of Life at the Orthopedic Hospital, Toronto

By Fred W. Coyne.

An average day at the Davisville Military Hospital, North Toronto, is one into which is crowded to the fullest measure a programme of unceasing activity. The Hospital itself is one of the best equipped and most carefully managed of any of the big chain of similar institutions erected and maintained by the Military Hospitals Commission. Its primary purpose is to meet the needs of the steady and ever increasing number of returned men upon whom the surgeon's knife has yet to administer its correcting function. Cases of amputation and re-amputation would probably stand first on the list. Then might be mentioned many cases of bone-grafting; for example, the recent removal and grafting of a young corporal's rib into the lower jaw to replace the bone that had been shot away by shrapnel, will serve to illustrate the delicate nature of the work undertaken by the hospital surgeons.

But speaking about the Hospital proper and the programme that presents itself for the consideration of our Association: The opportunities for real practical ministration vary, from the writing of a letter for some armless hero of the Somme, or the planning of a concert or outing, to the holding of a devotional service in one of the sick wards. Opportunity for initiative abounds on all sides. To know how to get next to the returned fellow, to disarm, if possible, any existing prejudice he may have, and to win and retain his personal friendship, may be summed up as the primary step to a happy hospital experience.

I was speaking of the activities of the day. Let me make brief reference to the main items of daily routine. After the performance of early ablutions and breakfast, the first big item on the day's programme is the muster parade at 9. Until the severity of the weather interfered, this function was held on the big space of ground immediately facing the main entrance of the administration building. At the call of the bugle, sounded out in real British fashion by a stalwart youth of not more than eighteen, who got his scars at Courcelette, streams of men may be seen—some on crutches, others cane in hand —some again minus the right or left arm, and others partly supported by some bosom pal of Flanders, wending their way to the line of parade. There they are, a battered and broken throng, numbering several hundred, fragments of Flanders and France indeed. Men, every one of them in the truest sense, who went "over the top" and risked their all for liberty and right, and who now, thank God, stand ready and willing to be helped in things temporal and spiritual. This daily function occupies not more than ten minutes. After listening to the daily orders from the S.M. and other instructions from the O.C. the men are practically free for the day, with the exception of those cases where special electrical treatment, massage or surgical dressings are called for at certain hours.

All morning the scene presented in and about the Hospital is a busy one indeed. Ambulances and autos swing in and out of the main gateway, bringing in new arrivals, conveying others to the railway station or to some other hospital for special treatment. Up and down the big corridors medical officers, nursing sisters, medical specialists in civies, call in for consultation, and non-coms. move to and fro. Then there's the business office which has its daily line up of admissions and discharges. Type-writing machines click away at a merry rate, reminding one of a financial institution rather than the more peaceful atmosphere which usually attaches to an institution having the care of the sick as its chief function.

The large, well appointed operating room on the third floor, immaculate in snowy whiteness, is also working at full speed. 20 operations per week is a fair average, I think, with the number occasionally reaching as high as 35. Passing through the two wards, East and West, we find those of the patients who have recently passed through the surgeon's hands. And my! what terribly sick fellows they are. Passing through these wards any evening following a day of many operations, and listening to the groans of men suffering from the combined effects of anæsthesia and pain, one is reminded in a small way of what it must be to be in close proximity to a front line dressing-station. It is, therefore, with a bit of relief that we step into the two large convalescent wards on the same floor. Every bed occupied, and oh! what a dandy bunch of scouts. Who could not warm up to this crowd of happy-faced fellows? Some suffering intense pain, but so very brave. Look at Jim —— and Bob —— each minus both legs (two out of seven others similarly afflicted). Apart from the pathos of the thing you would certainly have smiled the other evening had you seen these two legless scouts gripped in a friendly wrestling bout, while the rest of the gang joked and tossed pillows at the contestants. What cheer! And here comes Curly C—— in his wheel chair, one of the cheeriest all-round sports in the Hospital. The average visitor would say, "Poor kid, what has he to live for?" For Curly, hero of the Somme, paid the toll of both arms and both legs for King and country. But this dusky-faced youth still loves life, and sees indeed a great deal of life's lighter side. The other evening I saw his nibs pick up a book with his two armless stumps and by a fairly well directed aim land the missle at a comrade's head on the opposite side of the ward. And Curly, Jim, and Bob, and many others that I could name, will, when occasion requires, unite in shouting in true

soldier fashion the inspiring chorus of "Smile, smile, smile."

Before leaving the upper floor I would say that I regard this particular section as the Clearing House of the institution, for almost every soldier, to use a banking term, must first "clear" on the upper floor before graduating to any one of the six larger wards, either in the annex or the floor below. Hence comes the value of getting to know one's men during their occupancy of this upper floor. It is here we put on our movie entertainments. Generally four nights each week, two in each ward. And real "movie" pictures, mind you, with all the thrill of the professional thing. And best of all, a most appreciative audience to greet each performance. It is here also that we crown the week with two very real Sunday services. It would do your heart good any Sunday evening to peep first into the East ward and later on to glance at the expectant faces of our boys on the West side as we put our stereopticon into position, wheel out the little portable organ, and lower the screen preparatory to commencing operations. First of all a few well-known hymns are sung (some beautifully illustrated in color), followed by prayer and the alternate reading of some familiar Scripture selection. Then come the pictures themselves, dealing as a rule with some Biblical theme or, occasionally stepping aside from the beaten path, introducing a touch of old England or the Highlands of Scotland or possibly a few glimpses of our great Rockies and the golden West.

At the close of a recent Sunday evening service during which we showed a number of beautifully colored views dealing with Gethsemane and the Cross, and which presented a rare opportunity for pressing home the Gospel story, a young Roman Catholic French Canadian, badly wounded and suffering much pain, called me over to his bedside, and after expressing his thanks "for that beautiful service," added, "It is good we can think of God once a week anyway." Thus the work itself brings its reward, and who would say that such a service as I have described was not well worth while?

And in conclusion let me remind myself, and give expression to the conviction, without minimising in any way the many and varied channels of real helpful service open to our hand in relation to the returned soldier and his needs, that the one primary object of our effort must be to present with equal and even greater earnestness the picture of a living Crucified Christ, still able to save, able to keep and to bless. They need it no less now than two or three years ago when these same boys, then full of life and hope, boisterous and thrilled with the spirit of adventure, thronged our camps throughout Canada. Permit me further to reaffirm my deepest conviction that the returned man, in spite of unsupported statements to the contrary. will still be found open for the simple story of Calvary's Cross faithfully and plainly told. His Mother's Bible, his Mother's Christ and the link with the old Sunday School will still prove to be the deciding factors in shaping his future course.

## THE Y.M.C.A. AND MORALE.

Napoleon declared that three-fourths of the fighting force of an army lay in its morale. In the present war we have a tremendous example of the significance of morale. The battle of Verdun was fought to a conclusion by the French for the sake of the morale effect the saving of the fortress would have upon France, and the corresponding effect that the failure of the German armies to capture the town, precious to the French by tradition and military reputation, would have upon the German aspirations. It had been decided by the French staff that, from the purely military point of view, Verdun could be given up and better defences found further west. The Government, however, made the generals see the significance of saving the morale of the people. Since the Marne no event has heartened the French so powerfully as their great victory of Verdun.

Every student of the war situation will appreciate the increased pressure that must now fall upon the allied armies in France on account of the defection of the Russians and the unfortunate reverses in Italy. On the Western front they must sustain the brunt of the struggle for Victory. The Canadians are the spearhead of the great drive in Belgium. Our brave lads must exercise all the fortitude and patience they possess under the great test. To sustain their morale, or fighting spirit, is a most vital necessity.

One of the most active and most successful agencies working on behalf of the morale of the Canadians is the military work of the Young Men's Christian Association.

Forty years ago at Niagara Camp the Y.M.C.A. began work on behalf of soldiers. The effort was carried on during the Spanish-American War, the Boer War and the Russo-Japanese conflict. To-day the military work of the Y.M.C.A. extends all over the world. The work of the Canadian organization is apparent in every military camp in Canada, on the trains and boats, in English camps and cities, and at the front. Everywhere he goes the Canadian soldier is heartened by the good work of the Y.M.C.A. The succour of the Y.M.C.A.'s that followed up the advances at Vimy and the Somme were typical of the vigour of this great aid to "morale."

When Tommy has fought for days in the wet cold trenches with streams of "Jack Johnsons," "whiz-bangs" and shrapnel flying about day and night, and a long trudge ahead of him to reach billets, it need not be said that the free distribution of hot drinks, biscuits, chocolates will stir up anew his wonderful "morale." Often he receives these conforts right in the trenches. By its programme of athletics, games, concerts, free writing facilities, personal services, religious guidance, movie shows, impromptu sing-songs and homey atmosphere during dull days, the Y.M.C.A. helps the soldier forget for a time the horrors and monotony of war, strengthens him in body and spirit to "carry on" gloriously for the sake of the cause he has at heart.

# INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT

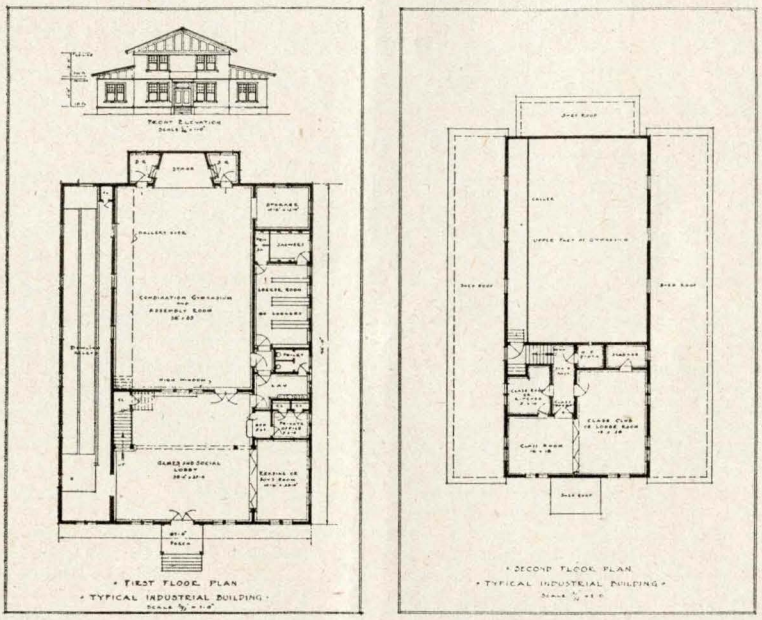
## WHEN HE TAKES OFF THE KHAKI—?

JNO. SUMNER, SEC'Y INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT.

WHEN he takes off the khaki and puts on the overalls, what will be your attitude towards him?

To-day there are hundreds of thousands of men in khaki very rightly being catered to by the Young Men's Christian Association, who in civilian life—no, in their industrial life—were outside the pale of influence of our organization; their hands and faces were soiled somewhat, so was their "linen." The feeling was antagonistic on home nights. "Foreigners" have their own diversions. We have told them of our Sunday afternoon meeting and they never come—and we can guess why and the many other similar reasons for instant dismissal of the subject.

Yet on the desk of the General Superintendent of a great industrial concern is a magazine; he points to an article printed therein and some of the marked paragraphs read: "The men and women who do the labor of the world are the most important factors in the thing we call prosperity." "There are forces at work to-day in industry which are silently revolutionizing




FLOOR PLAN OF A TYPICAL Y.M.C.A. INDUSTRIAL BUILDING

his part toward the Association; there was no sympathetic outreach from the Secretarial force, and the result was we rushed through that district on a trolley car and sought more approachable folks.

But the influence exerted on this same man while in khaki calls for a continuance with him on his return to industrial life, together with the hundreds of thousands of those men who have toiled at the forge or in the foundry, forming the army behind the army. What will be the policy of the local Association Secretary?

Back in overalls producing the wealth of the nation, he will be passed by, the same man we catered to bodily, mentally and spiritually whilst in khaki, but now in that other army of production, we would rather not be asked too closely our opinion. Possibly their hours are somewhat awkward; they usually want to stay it. Science and humanity are the chief factors in this great reorganization."

We hear of this department or that organization providing leadership, but as never before; if they have not the industrial army behind them, they have nothing to lead.

Your 1918 programme of activities, will it include some definite work for that huge army of men in that nearby plant, factory or foundry, or will you keep close to your well-furnished office, passing by on the other side when you go that way? The General Superintendent is saying to his staff, "we have tried or heard of every welfare programme under heaven but without avail, now let's try a Christian one."

Take your suggested programme of work to him and you will be surprised at the receptive hearing awaiting you.

## LONDON CAMP.

LONDON, ONT.

The troops at London are now comfortably located in their winter quarters in Queen's Park. There are at present about 1,300 men located there and over 2,000 in the district. The Y.M.C.A. is well established and the men—the majority of whom are Americans—are unstinted in their expressions of gratitude for the work we are carrying on. Mr. J. H. Dawson, formerly pastor in Kingston, is now in charge of the work. Mr. Geo. Young, who expects to go to Kingston, has been acting as Social and Religious Secretary since the spring. Mr. Kershaw, who spent the summer at Camp Borden, operates the moving picture machine and takes care of the building. This is a sample of the weekly programme at the Y building:

**Monday.**

Movies and Sing-song.

**Tuesday.**

Concert night.

**Wednesday.**

Bible Class 6.30. Sing-song and movies at 7.30.

**Thursday.**

Lecture or stunt night.

**Friday.**

Concert night.

**Saturday.**

Movies and Sing-song.

**Sunday.**

Illustrated Gospel Talk.

One feature of the work at Queen's Park is the nightly boxing and wrestling bouts which always attract a big crowd. Sergt. Dyer, middle-weight champion of the Army and Navy, is an enthusiastic coach. All kinds of indoor games are popular with the men, especially indoor quoits and checkers. A building has also been given over which is being used for indoor tennis. This is a popular game with the officers. The reading and writing tables are constantly filled every evening. On an average about 300 letters are written daily. During the summer the hospitals on Carling Heights were visited daily. Supplies of reading and writing material, fruit, etc., were distributed among the patients. The Convalescent Hospital for returned soldiers and the guardsmen stationed at Princess Ave. School are also kept regularly supplied. General Shannon, D.O.C., Lieut.-Col. Brown, A.A.G., Major Fairbank and many other officers on the Headquarters Staff have manifested their keenest interest and sympathy in the work.

A new hut is being built to meet the needs of the men quartered for the winter on Carling Heights. A splendid site, inside the camp grounds has been granted by the military authority for this purpose.

## "THE TRAIL OF THE PAINTED POSTS."

Who will refuse his bit for the Y.M.C.A. when he reads this sketch by Bruce Barton of the "Trail of the Painted Posts?" It is the trail to Gethsemane that every soldier tramps, and they go silently. Mr. Barton says in the Boston *Transcript* that he got his "heartrending story of the walking wounded" from a man who had just landed from the Western front:

"The wounded who have lost an arm, or an eye, or part of the face, but are still able to struggle back from the front-line trenches alone.

"Go with me for a moment to France; I want you to see what he saw. I want you to know the truth.

"It is the day before the big push. For weeks the army has known the exact hour and moment when the barrage would lift and the men leap out 'over the top.'

"The enemy has known it too; his preparations are as great and as careful as ours.

"On the day before, the engineers plant a line of painted white posts a few yards apart, leading from the rear straight to the borders of No Man's Land.

"Simple painted posts—what are they for?

"They are to guide the walking wounded. Eyes blurred with blood and suffering that might lose the road can follow the trail of those painted posts; bodies too weak from shell-shock or gas to stand alone can find there a momentary support.

"The trail of the painted posts is the trail of the walking wounded; the trail of blood and misery and pain.

"Just before dawn the men file into the forward trenches. Singing? Not a bit. Talking? Hardly a word. Only the silent, heavy tramp of men who have written their last letters home. Men with faces carved out of stone.

"They pass out of camp; they pass the base hospitals; they pass the canteen. And just before they reach the front trench—at the very front, under the fire of the big guns themselves—each man pauses for just a second at a dugout.

"It is the front trench of the Y.M.C.A.

"From it a hand reaches out: in the hand a piece of chocolate for each man to be eaten in case he falls wounded in No Man's Land. A hearty 'Good luck and God bless you.' It is with this, the voice of the Y.M.C.A. Secretary, ringing in their ears that men go 'over the top.'

"An hour passes; two hours. And slowly, painfully, draggingly, they come back.

"Bleeding, staggering men, following the trail of the painted posts.

"And they stop at the Y.M.C.A. dugout first. It lies nearest the guns. Nearer than the doctor or hospital. There every man gets a cup of hot tea if he wants it; there two orderlies stand with hypodermics in their hands.

"'Do you want it?' they demand of each man who passes through.

"And either he thrusts out his arm to receive the soothing potion, or he nods his head and passes on.

"On along the way of painted posts to the hospitals and to rest.

"Sometimes the dugout is shelled, and a Y.M.C.A. Secretary loses his life; two went out together on one day recently.

"It is part of the game; they ask for no sympathy; they ask not even for pay; many of them are working for nothing at all.

"All they ask is for money to 'carry on.'"

—*Literary Digest.*

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## INSPECTION.

"An officer to see you, sir!"

One of the sergeants in a Canadian Y.M.C.A. hut at Bramshott Camp, England, appeared in his senior officer's doorway with this commonplace summons. Within, two or three Y.M.C.A. officers were taking life easy for a few brief minutes during the day, their "Sam Browne" belts thrown carelessly to one side. There was not even time to don them.

"An" officer!

Merciful goodness! when Captain ——— and Lieut. ——— reached the open hut they found it full of officers, crowded with them—not the ordinary sort either, but with red-banded hats and enough of the insignia of high and mighty authority to dazzle the vision. The hut and the woods were full of them.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught stepped smartly up to the canteen counter.

"A glass of lemonade, if you please." Surely a most modest request for Royalty!

"Just like you serve it to the soldiers," put in Lieut.-Gen. Sir R. E. W. Turner, V.C., Commander of the Canadian Forces in the British Isles, taking his place beside the Duke.

The lemonade was made, served and quaffed. His Royal Highness took an inspecting turn around the building, expressed his satisfaction, and soon was gone.

Then it dawned upon the gasping Y.M.C.A. staff that the former Governor-General of Canada was merely carrying out the duties of his office as Patron of the Naval and Military work of the British Y.M.C.A., and that he had held a similar post in the Canadian Association while residing in Canada. He is always active, always thorough, always sympathetic and thoughtful when the interests of the troops, of whom he was for several years the Commander-in-Chief at Ottawa, are concerned. And the same can be said of his attention to the well-being of any of the organizations in which he has consented to hold office.

To this day each member of the staff in that Y.M.C.A. hut, from the Supervising Captain down, has packed carefully away in his dunnage bag, the "identical" mug out of which His Royal Highness drank the lemonade on that visit to the Canadians at Bramshott.

## CONFIDENCE—KNOWLEDGE—EFFICIENCY.

One might almost say that in order to have one of the above, all are necessary, but it is too well known to need elaboration by me to say very many have "A little bit of——" well, any one of these necessray traits, or maybe a little bit of each one.

Daniel T. Morgan, in his treatise on "The reason for the success of the leaders of America," says, among other things: "The man, whether he is young or old, who tries to reach the top rung of the ladder of success equipped with part of the training that is necessary, might just as well make up his mind at the start that he is going to be a rung FOR THE OTHER MAN—the man properly equipped—and can only hope to step up or over the fellows less surely equipped than he is."

That as many as possible may be "climbers" instead of "rungs" for other climbers, Educational Classes have been in progress in Montreal and other centres, to assist the young men to make the best of life and its opportunities. The editor tells me my allotment of space is limited, so I will confine my remarks to the work at Montreal Central Y.M.C.A.

Under the direction of Mr. A. W. Young, evening classes are conducted for training the men of Montreal for a fuller registration of Confidence, Knowledge and Efficiency; but not at the loss of recreation and the comfort of those who are to benefit by these classes. As far as I could ascertain, there are some 300 boys enrolled—under the leadership of Mr. John G. MacKinnon, Boys' Secretary—an enthusiast from the word go—and in the vicinity of 100 men under Mr. Young. The men giving the training are, for the most part, high school and university teachers. There are about a dozen instructors now. Shorthand, typewriting, book-keeping, general English courses, and complete self-improvement systems are followed; while special preparatory schedules are arranged for the boys.

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Mr. Kingerley,
Chief of Staff,
Young Men's Christian Association,
Niagara-on-the-Lake,
Ont., Canada.

Dear Sir,—We are constantly receiving letters from our volunteers expressing their deepest gratitude for all your great, generous and patriotic organization is doing for them. Please accept our most sincere thanks for your generosity and splendid spirit of rendering aid wherever there is a worthy cause and need of it.

We hope to have soon the pleasure of expressing verbally our thanks to you and the other gentlemen of your staff for all you have done for our boys.

Yours very faithfully,
Military Commission Recruiting
for the Polish Army in France,
DR. T. A. STARZYNSKI.
ALEXANDER ZNAMIECKI.

# Boys' Department

## THE FALL DRIVE CONTINUES.

As indicated in our last issue, a comprehensive programme for the fall months had been undertaken by the Allies in Boys' Work. We reported then it had started, and we are now able to state that they have indeed "gone over" the top and have been able to make and consolidate gains. Every province has held its part of the line in a most satisfactory way.

The Allies in this fall drive consist of Anglicans, Baptists, Congregationalists, Methodists and Presbyterians, together with the various provincial Sunday School Associations and the Young Men's Christian Association, who have united in a great co-operative effort in Boys' Work. The officers in charge of this drive consisted of representatives of the various units, who met and laid plans and then proceeded to work through their several organizations. The results have been splendid.

Since our last report, twelve engagements have taken place with signal success. Four others are in progress as we go to press, and the final one is planned to come off at Barrie, Ont., December 6th to 9th.

We are still too close to them to be able to measure or appreciate to the full all that they mean to the boys of Canada and to the national life of the future and yet anyone who has been privileged to attend them cannot help but be impressed by the spirit of intensity and interest and the growing desire to serve on the part of the boys. The Forward Steps at the various Conferences have indicated a seriousness of purpose which bespeaks a high type of Canadian Christian manhood, able and willing to grapple with the problems of the coming years.

The drive was planned in four sections, Maritime Provinces, Ontario and Quebec, Middle West and Western Canada. The Maritime Province series has been completed and we are able to report as follows:—

**New Brunswick.**

| FREDERICTON. | Oct. 25th to 28th. |
|---|---|
| Total Registration..... | 268 |
| Centres Represented..... | 35 |
| Forward Steps..... | 207 |

**Nova Scotia.**

| TRURO. | Nov. 8th to 11th. |
|---|---|
| Total Registration..... | 230 |
| Centres Represented..... | 26 |
| Forward Steps..... | 164 |

**Prince Edward Island.**

| CHARLOTTETOWN. | Nov. 15th to 18th. |
|---|---|
| Total Registration..... | 116 |
| Centres Represented..... | 27 |
| Forward Steps..... | 117 |

Mr. L. A. Buckley, Y.M.C.A. Boys' Work Secretary for the Maritime Provinces, was Conference Director at these three Conferences, and showed splendid efficiency and ability.

The leaders of these Conferences were representatives of the various co-operating units. It is believed that Boys' Work in the Maritime Provinces will receive a splendid impetus as a result of these Conferences.

In our last issue we reported the opening of operations in the Ontario and Quebec series, and since that time drives of a most successful nature have been made at Toronto, Montreal and St. Catharines. The total registration at these Conferences was in the neighborhood of eleven hundred. The Conference at Montreal was outstanding. Nearly four hundred Quebec boys gathered and spent three days of instruction and inspiration, and Boys' Work in Quebec Province will be much more extensive as well as intensive because of this Conference.

In the Middle West series, Conferences have been held in Fort William, Winnipeg, and Moose Jaw. We are not able to give detailed reports at this time, but advance advices inform us that they were exceptionally good in every way, and we look forward with interest for later details.

In the Far West, over one thousand boys of Southern and Northern Alberta gathered at Lethbridge and Edmonton, which was a remarkably good showing. To touch a thousand lives in this way in one Province will mean much to the life of its communities. Nelson had a representative gathering of boys, and New Westminster starts as we go to press, but its prospects are splendid for a good Conference.

And so the drive is almost completed. Splendid gains have been made. There is a remarkable uniformity of strength in all parts of the country. But gains must be consolidated and new drives planned until there has been obtained for Canada the highest type of boys and men who will be patterned after the four-fold life of Jesus Christ. This must be our objective. We must not let up until it is accomplished. It is a worth-while task, big enough to challenge our best. Let every Christian man have his part in it.

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## GUELPH HOLD "FATHER AND SON" BANQUET.

There was recently held in Guelph a "Father and Son" Banquet at which nearly two hundred "dads" and boys were present. This was another success in the string of such events which have been held by the Guelph Association.

On this occasion, certificates and ribbons won in the Bible Study Examinations were presented by Mr. F. S. Beckwith, Boys' Work Secretary.

Mr. W. H. Vaughan, Associate National Boys' Work Secretary, was present and addressed the gathering, after which he presented Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests Diplomas.

Reports were given by the boys on Boys' Work Conference and "Soldiers of the Soil" Movement.

The function in every way was highly successful.

# Boys' Department

## BOYS' WORK.
## "FORWARD STEPS."
## TEEN-AGE BOYS FOLLOWING THE JESUS WAY.

EVERY day brings to our notice evidence of the value of work with boys. There have been very many examples of heroism displayed by boys in France who have come up through Boys' Work Conferences in years gone by.

A young lieutenant at Vimy Ridge was a short time after the commencement of the engagement practically the only officer in his battalion who was not a casualty. He led his men on until he himself fell. This boy, though only twenty years of age, was recommended for the V.C. His father recently said that his son had received a vision of unselfish service at a Boys' Work Conference.

Another story is told of a boy who though badly wounded reported to his officer that he would carry on and turning to go back, fell within ten feet. There was found in his pocket a forward step card on which he had registered his resolution at a Forward Step Meeting in connection with a Boys' Work Conference.

Still another boy volunteered for the hazardous service of connecting wires which had been broken. Before he reached his objective, his leg was shattered by a shell. Tying it up as best he could, he crawled forward and connected the wires. The boy survived but will always be minus a limb as a token of his bravery.

The outstanding thing is not so much that he was wounded, but that he accomplished that for which he had set out after being wounded. In writing to his mother, he said that the forward step card which he carried in his pocket was a daily inspiration to him to live a life of service.

Men who have been to the Front and have returned, testify to the sterling Christian character which is being exhibited by the boys who have come under the influence of Boys' Work, either in the church or Y.M.C.A.

Recently thousands of boys who have attended the series of Conferences have made the same kind of forward step as the boys mentioned above. We believe that it will mark the commencement of a real development in their lives.

A few of these steps taken at random give evidence of the earnestness of purpose and the vision of service and usefulness which is permeating the minds of boys.

I have resolved that, by God's help, I will keep as my life text: "Whatsoever He hath said unto you, do it," with the particular meaning that I believe it has for me.

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I have decided to make greater efforts at school, to help prepare me for my life, which I have not been doing up to the present.

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O God, help me to not forget this Conference. Help me to be a man. Help me to help the "other fellow" always, and not lose my enthusiasm nor become careless and indifferent. Help me not to be ashamed ever to do what is right.

At this Conference I have decided to become a minister, and if God sees fit I will become a Foreign Missionary, to pass on to others the good things we have here in Canada.

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I desire and earnestly pray that I may from now on secure and do more faithful work at school that I may prepare myself for the Christian ministry. To read my Bible more regularly.

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This Conference opened my eyes to the real things of life. I am going home to get the crowd that stands around the corner into our class, and help them to live for the best things.

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With God's help, I shall live such a life that I shall be a man of service to others, a pure father and a steadfast Christian.

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## BOYS' PARLIAMENT.

The world's first Boys' Parliament will be held in Toronto on December 26th-29th. It will be composed of boys who have been elected as representatives from the various Boys' Work Conferences which have been held this fall in Ontario and Quebec. They will represent rural, town and city communities.

Here plans, methods and programmes of Boys' Work will be discussed by boys. The whole Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests course of training will be reviewed from a boy's standpoint for the purpose of getting the opinions of the boys on a boys programme which so far is largely the result of deliberations of adults. It is felt that some very helpful and constructive criticism will come as a result of this Parliament, which will be passed on to the National Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests Committee.

The question of patriotic service which boys can render through helping in greater food production in connection with the "Soldiers of the Soil" Movement will receive a prominent place in the deliberations of the Parliament.

This gathering is in the nature of an experiment, and it is thought that should results be as satisfactory as it is hoped they will be, that it will be but the forerunner of a National Boys' Parliament to be held sometime in the future, possibly in the National Capital.

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## WOODSTOCK, N.B., CANADIAN STANDARD EFFICIENCY BOYS AID SOLDIERS.

Another call has been issued by the Y.M.C.A., Halifax, for more magazines to send to the soldiers on the transports and in the trenches. In response to this appeal, the C.S.E.T. boys of Woodstock will have a magazine collecting day on Saturday, November 17th. On this day the whole town will be canvassed. Give your best magazines to the collectors. Last year the Woodstock boys sent several thousand magazines to the soldiers.

# Boys' Department

## HALIFAX DELEGATION AT TRURO CONFERENCE.

The list of following resolutions passed by the Halifax delegates at the Truro Boys' Work Conference shows the interest boys take and also constructive suggestions which they have to bring for the further extension of the work:—

1. That the Halifax Conference Delegates select teams to visit the various churches of the city to organize C.S.E.T. groups.
2. That all C.S.E.T. groups of the city meet every two months at the Y.M.C.A. for inspirational talks and discussion on methods of work.
3. That a central C.S.E.T. Library be secured for use of mentors and boys.
4. A general Campaign be carried on to secure speakers for the various Practical Talks, and that a list of these men be handed each group in order that the boys from the churches may call on these men for their programme.
5. That a training course be carried on for older boys who may become mentors next year.

## LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FORMED AT HAMPTON, N.B.

Nine boys from the town of Hampton, about twenty miles from St. John, attended the Provincial Older Boys' Conference, held in Fredericton. They resolved to go back home and introduce the C.S.E.T. programme in all the churches in the town, and endeavor to have the churches of the community unite in a Co-operative Movement. An invitation was extended to the Secretary of the Provincial Advisory Committee to visit Hampton, and at a most enthusiastic meeting of the older boys and men of the town, a Local Advisory Committee for Co-operation in Boys' Work was formed. A budget of one hundred and fifty dollars has been raised, and this is being used to repair a hall for gymnasium purposes and to provide a meeting place for the boys of the churches to meet and hold their mid-week sessions.

## D. R. POOLE GOES TO REGINA.

Mr. D. R. Poole, who has had considerable experience in Association work in Saskatoon, Oshawa and in the Boys' Division of the Central Branch, Toronto, recently went to Regina to take charge of the work of the Boys' Division there. We feel that Mr. Poole will be of valuable service in his new field. He is enthusiastic over the Co-operative Programme which is being carried out so well by all the churches in Regina.

He was one of the Zone Supervisors in the work carried on last summer in Ontario among rural and city boys who were working on the farms.

## MORNING WATCH.

One great outstanding fact that is being daily impressed upon us is the increasing number of boys in Canada who are following the practice of keeping the Morning Watch. Almost daily we are receiving evidences of the value of this in the lives of boys, both at home and those who have gone to the trenches. Many of the latter say that they have been able to stand firm for Jesus Christ under trying conditions because of the help which they are receiving daily through the practice of the Morning Watch.

The National Boys' Work Committee for the last three years have been issuing bi-monthly a little booklet, entitled "Daily Talks with the Master Trainer," for Canadian Older Boys in Training. In this booklet, daily passages of Scripture are indicated. There are also comments on the passage for the day written in a way that is especially helpful.

Many of these booklets are to-day going to the trenches in France, and we believe it is impossible to over-estimate their value.

Upon application to this office, sample copy of this little booklet will be sent.

## CANADIAN STANDARD EFFICIENCY TESTS WORK IN ST. JOHN.

The Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests programme has secured a wonderful hold on the Boys' Work of St. John. About thirty-five groups are organized in the city, and the prospects at present are that the season will be one of very great activity.

## CO-OPERATION OF THE CHURCHES AND THE Y.M.C.A. IN ST. JOHN.

St. David's Presbyterian, St. Mary's and St. Luke's Anglican, Fairville Baptist Churches and the Y.M.C.A. have this year entered upon a co-operative scheme. All of these organizations are carrying out Grade Three of the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests programme. A Co-operative Committee, composed of a representative from each of these organizations, has been formed and speakers secured to visit the various centres and give the Practical Talks. Five times during the year all the groups will come together in the Y.M.C.A. for a United Gathering, the first of which was held on November 16th, when the Rev. Hamilton Wigle (President of Mount Allison Ladies' College, Saskville, N.B.), gave an Educational Lecture on "Turkey and the Turks." In December, Mr. L. A. Buckley will address the United Gathering on "The Meaning and Value of an Education." Subjects of the other United Talks are: "The Three C's Campaign," "The History of Religion," and "Efficiency in Life Work." The plan thus far has worked well, and the prospects are that the scheme will prove a great success.

# Boys' Department

## DOINGS AT OTTAWA.

The Boys' Work Department of the Y.M.C.A., Ottawa, under the leadership of W. A. Milks, Boys' Work Secretary, is making splendid progress. The last report showed membership 386, which was a considerable increase over a year ago. A well-rounded programme of Boys' Work is being carried on in the building while much assistance is being given to the various churches to inaugurate the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests.

## DENOMINATIONAL BOYS' WORK CONFERENCE.

Recently in Ottawa, the Methodist boys and the Presbyterian boys held a Conference which had for its purpose the extension of the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests in their various churches. A similar conference was held by the Baptist boys of Montreal.

These Conferences augur well for the future of Boys' Work in the churches. Boys can generally start something.

## MONTREAL CENTRAL.

Boys' Work Secretary McKinnon, of Central Y.M.C.A., Montreal, reports a splendid increase in membership of the Boys' Division, which now reaches over 700. Special attention is being paid to educational classes for boys, an account of which is found elsewhere.

## NEW BOYS' WORK SECRETARY AT WESTMOUNT.

Cecil L. Brown, who was for some time in charge of the Boys' Department in Stratford, has recently become Boys' Work Secretary at Westmount. Mr. Brown is a hard worker, a sympathetic leader and of sterling qualities, which we are sure will bring him success in his new field of opportunity.

He is succeeded in Stratford by D. H. Gillard.

## WINNIPEG CANADIAN STANDARD EFFICIENCY TESTS ATHLETIC MEET.

There was recently held in Winnipeg an Athletic Meet in which the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests were used as the basis. This was co-operative, and the contestants were members of Y.M.C.A. and Sunday School groups in Winnipeg who were taking the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests.

The weather was extremely inclement and this interfered with the number taking part. While over two hundred boys had entered, only a little over half of this number took part.

The outstanding athlete was C. Campbell of Augustine Sunday School, who attained the standard of 70% or over in all the events in which he competed.

Notwithstanding the unfavorable conditions, those who promoted the Meet were so well satisfied that a move will be made to make it an annual event.

## ABSOLUTE EFFICIENCY.

**Impressions formed at a C.S.E.T. Conference.**

By "FIRST-TIMER."

Being a stickler for efficiency and system myself, it is hard to express properly how much impressed I was with the way the Boys' Work Conference I attended was carried on. To be perfectly candid, I went because I felt it was my duty to do so; but before half an hour of the Conference had passed, I was more than pleased that I had attended. But let me give you a running report of my impressions.

There were some four humdred and fifty teen age boys at the meet. They represented a number of different sections in this part of Ontario. They were boys in the real sense of the word, yet when business was on they were like a "Sales Managers' Meeting."

One thing that will remain in my mind for many a year was the way the boys appreciated —and showed their appreciation—the many good points brought out by the various speakers. There was no hooting and yelling (as one might expect from a bunch of young, red-blooded boys) but merely loud clapping of hands—which applause was continued for so long as they thought the thoughts expressed deserved. Nothing was missed, as was demonstrated after some of the sessions when the boys questioned the speakers regarding some point or other.

At one session, in particular, the chairman requested that three of the boys offer prayer. I fully expected to find bashfulness in full sway and a long, long wait without prayer until finally the chairman would have to fill the breach, but I was most pleasantly surprised by three boys offering prayers—prayers that any preacher might well be proud of; and remember these prayers came from the souls of boys still in their teens.

In the selection of Conference officers—picked from the delegates—the boys showed how seriously they took the matter. For each office there were two or three nominations. The boys nominated were evidently the pick of the district; they showed their ability throughout the Conference by the able manner in which they attended to the various details; the presentations of reports and the businesslike manner in which they kept the sessions in motion.

## BOYS TELL OF CANADIAN STANDARD EFFICIENCY TESTS.

A report reaches us from Kingston where in Sydenham Methodist Church an evening was given to the demonstration of the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests programme for boys. Three young men who have been through Boys' Work Conferences addressed the gathering on the benefits of this course of training, while a cadet in the army testified what Jesus Christ meant to him as a soldier.

This is but one of the many instances which is reaching us of work which older boys are doing to extend the Gospel of the four-fold life.

### ST. JOHN Y.M.C.A. BOYS' DIVISION UNDERGOES SOME GREAT CHANGES.

Of the eighteen mentors that last year assisted in the carrying out of the C.S.E.T. programme in the St. John Y.M.C.A., but three were available to take up the work this season. A number of the men have enlisted, others have gone to college, and another is broken down in health. Fourteen new men have been secured, several of whom are busy business men, who have caught the real vision of what Boys' Work is and are taking the places of the younger men who have joined the army. One of these men was called away on business last week. His group met at 5.30, the day he was due to return. The boat was not scheduled to arrive till 5.15. A large amount of work awaited him in the office, but in order to keep his engagement with his boys, he passed his office door and met with the group as usual. This is real sacrifice for the good of a noble cause.

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Jack Jordan, who joined the Boys' Work staff in St. John, N.B., on August 1st last, has enlisted. John was President of the New Brunswick Older Boys' Conference last year. He has always made good and his associates in the army will be the better because of his presence.

# Among the Local Associations

### OTTAWA.

The outstanding features of Association work at Ottawa are military—the freest use of the equipment by the soldiers and the work done for and among them. The reception and writing rooms are usually filled in the evenings with men in uniform, the baths are constantly patronized; the gymnasium is often used for physical exercises; a large percentage of the dormitory men are either in uniform or are returned men. The soldiers, who belong mainly to the Divisional Signallers, make use of the privileges as if they felt at home, which is the best possible testimony of their satisfaction.

A military secretary at Ottawa supervises the recreation hut at the barracks in the Exhibition grounds, visits the hospitals, convalescent homes, meets the returned men, and tries in every way possible to meet the needs of the men. Sunday afternoon meetings are held in the Association hall, followed by a supper given by the ladies of some particular church each week. Mid-week Bible classes are held, concerts arranged, and the now familiar lines of work for soldiers are faithfully followed. In Mr. C. F. Plewman, the Military Secretary, the soldiers have one who keeps things moving.

Another work of great interest is that undertaken among the foreign population. The Association is co-operating with one of the Settlement Houses in providing leaders for physical work among the boys and young men, and in putting on a programme of lectures. For instance, Mr. R. H. Campbell, Director of Forestry in the federal service, gives a lecture on forestry matters, and the course projected for the season includes illustrated lectures on astronomy, poultry-keeping, horticulture, sanitation and other subjects. Ottawa is particularly rich in its supply of lantern slides on almost any topic and in the number of experts who are available as speakers; and men very prominent in government service are willing to be used wherever possible.

One noticeable thing connected with the regular physical work of the Association is the large attendance at the senior business men's class and the diminished attendance of the junior business men. Another reflection of this tendency is found in the Leaders' Corps, which has now reached a membership of eight, over 25 of its personnel having enlisted. The Leaders' Corps at Ottawa receive very thorough training. In addition to their floor work, they meet for Bible instruction under the leadership of the General Secretary, Mr. I. E. Munger, and are also given a course of lectures on the philosophy of physical education by the director, Mr. H. O. McGuire. An interesting feature of the physical work is that the instruction in boxing and wrestling is in charge of a member of the crack Dominion Police.

The Boys' Department is in a very healthy condition as to membership and activities. Following the Leadership and Boys' Work conferences held early in October, the C.S.E.T. groups were organized and are now in full swing. The Boys' Work secretaries, W. A. Milks and W. E. Simpson, are co-operating with the denominational Sunday-school committees in introducing and carrying out the Standard Efficiency work in the city churches. The Boys' Department has been following the C.S.E.T. programme for four years. A Sunday-school athletic league is now in process of organization.

In spite of a heavy enlistment, the membership of the Ottawa Association is the best in its history. The senior membership is 1202 and boys' 324, making 1526 in all. Under the capable presidency of Mr. J. A. Machado, the Association is on a stronger financial basis, and looks forward with confidence to clearing off its large mortgage very soon after the close of the war.

The Ottawa Association has had a very close relationship to the large artillery training camp at Petawawa. In the season of 1916 the General Secretary, Mr. I. E. Munger, was chief of staff at the camp, and last summer Mr. H. O. McGuire, Physical Director, acted in that capacity. Many of the staff in both seasons came from the Ottawa membership.

# EMPLOYED OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

## NATIONAL COUNCIL SECRETARIES

Address, unless otherwise stated, 120 Bay Street, Toronto.

Chas. W. Bishop, National General Secretary.
John Brown, Jr., M.D., Associate General Secretary and General Supervisor of Military Work.
C. M. Copeland, Ontario and Quebec.
H. G. Ballantyne, Western Provinces, 313 I.O.O.F. Bldg., Calgary, Alta.
A. S. McAlister, Maritime Provinces, Y.M.C.A., Halifax, N.S.
J. M. Dudley, Railroad Y.M.C.A., Montreal, Que.
John Sumner, Industrial Secretary.
E. H. Clarke, Student Secretary.
Taylor Statten, National Boys' Work.
W. H. Vaughan, National Boys' Work.
C. Mel. Wright, National High School Clubs.
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Capt. Oscar D. Irwin—Missing since April, 1915.
Attached to the Second Brigade of the First Canadian Division.
Capt. Harry Whiteman—Died April 1st, 1916.
Attached to the Second Brigade of the First Canadian Division.

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